

THE Country GUIDE

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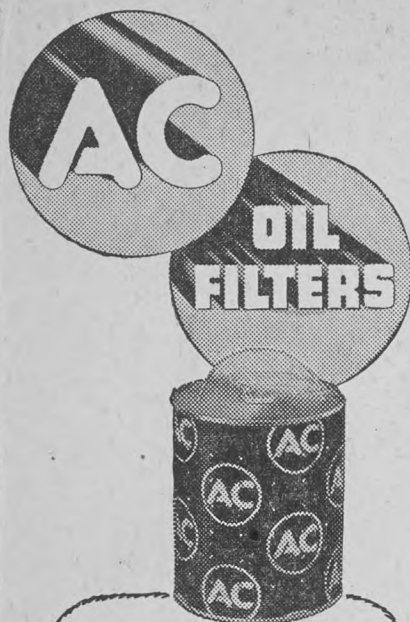
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THE *Country* GUIDE

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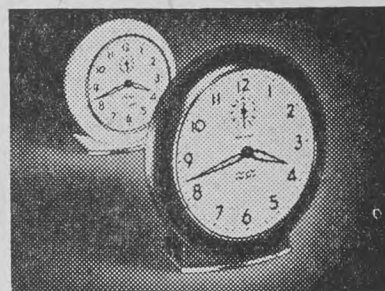
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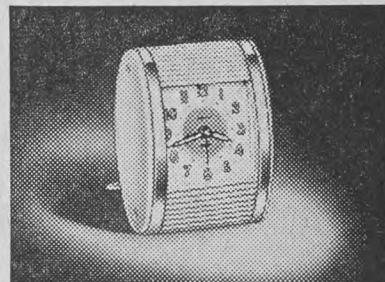
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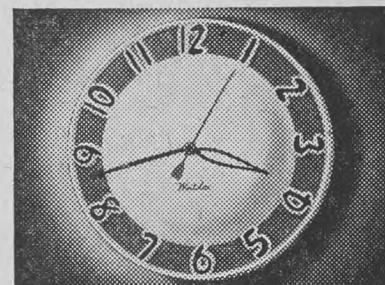
Time to get those Westclox you've promised yourself!



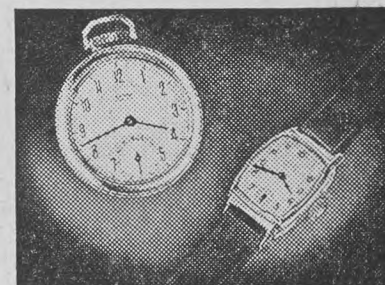
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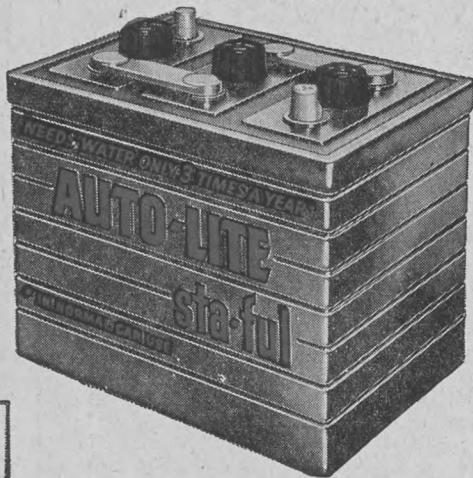
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(WHO AM I...?
SEE ANSWER BELOW)

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only 3 times a year!
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Under the Peace Tower

PARACHUTE and packhorse will figure prominently in getting the ballot boxes to the returning officers for the 1953 elections. Already, Nelson Castonguay, Dominion Electoral Officer, is planning his election from a second floor office here in Ottawa.

"You are hereby instructed to proceed immediately with the revision of the boundaries of the polling divisions of your electoral district," writes Electoral Officer Castonguay from Ottawa.

So begins a two-page, closely typed letter. There are two points he attempts to emphasize. Underlined in one of them is the following: "The selection of rural enumerators, deputy officers and polling stations is left to your discretion." Some might interpret this to mean that this is where the party patronage comes in, for if the local returning officer, inevitably a government official, picks any helpers, undoubtedly they will be those who "Vote Right," namely, Liberal.

The second thing he feels like stressing is put in block capitals. The Chief Returning Officer answers the inevitable but unasked question when he writes:

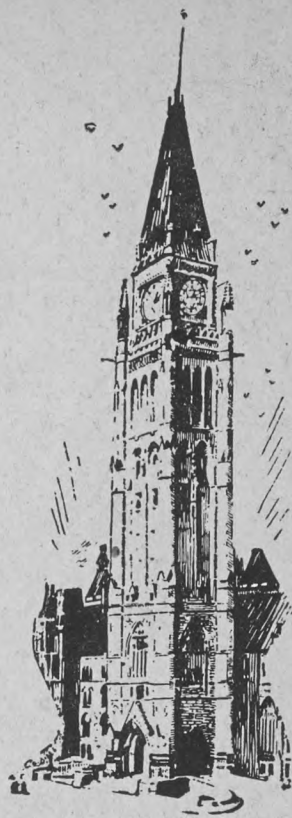
"I have no information as to when the next general election will be held . . ."

But, it seems to me that much more interesting than the stern and bleak directives in his closely typed, two-page missive are the picturesque by-products that this 1953 election brings out.

First of all, the aim of the electoral officer is to get his polls broken down so that no poll should average more than 350 voters. However, in big areas which contain densely populated apartments, polls may admittedly have as many as 800 or more voters. On the other hand, there are not a few polls out on the fringe of Canada where a poll is opened to accommodate as few as seven potential ballots. Polls are also placed, whenever possible, so that no elector should have to travel more than ten miles round trip to cast his vote.

In so-called fashionable areas it is often hard to find a poll. Many a house owner does not think that the statutory fee of \$12 for a single poll or \$18 for a double poll is adequate compensation for the confusion and mess. Schools cannot be considered, normally, when the school year is on.

Ballot boxes may go in, as indicated above, by parachute. One such landed in Labrador. The natives did not know what to do with it—indeed did not even know what it was—and so June 27, 1949, was not election day in that area. No one thought to open the box to find out what was in it. Had they done so they would have found the instructions. Meanwhile, packhorses will take the boxes into the foothills of the Rockies. Icebreakers will be requisitioned if necessary, this election, as they were in June, 1949. Incidentally, an icebreaker broke into the headlines in 1940, when it reached the mainland from the Madeleine Islands with enough ballots to upset the mainland verdict, and return Quebec's only Conservative in that par-



liament, a man called Joseph Sasseville Roy.

Minesweepers and naval cutters will help getting the people's verdict on both coasts, while the canoe will reach remote spots in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

"But," says Nelson Castonguay, "the unsung heroes of every general election are the post office employees. They deliver 10,000 ballot boxes each weighing 65 pounds."

Spare ballot boxes are kept in special warehouses in Ottawa and Hull, while those earmarked to be used are stored in public buildings all across Canada.

It takes 11 people working every day for five weeks to get the enumeration supplies out. The enumerators, incidentally, cannot get going till the 49th day after elections have been called.

Ballots are kept in folios at 244 Sparks Street, Ottawa. One sheet contains 16 ballots if there are two candidates; 14 ballots if there are three candidates; and 12 if there are four. The ballots are printed on special bonded paper. The names on the ballots are printed locally where the elections are held. The printer is inevitably furnished with a specimen and instructions on how to print it. A very close check is kept on the printer. But Mr. Castonguay has asserted that there never has been any crookedness on the part of any printer, since Confederation, as far as he knows. Nevertheless, the printer is sworn before a Justice of the Peace.

From the day the general election is called, it will take six weeks to empty all the warehouses. The equipment, which even includes pencils, will go out to 263 different points in Canada. Reason the figure is 263 is that although there are 265 seats to be contested, two of the ridings are dual constituencies. They are Queens, P.E.I., and Halifax, Nova Scotia.

All in all, when the last ounce of stuff has been moved from the last corner of all the warehouses, it will be a 300,000 ton election.



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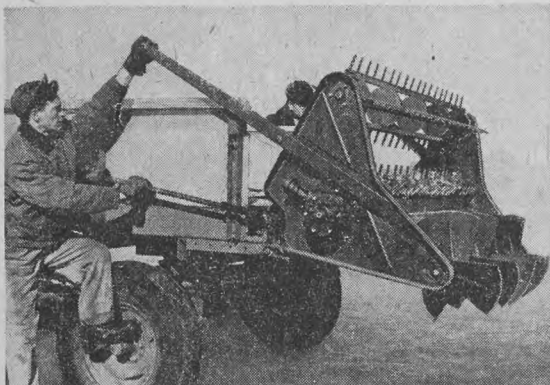
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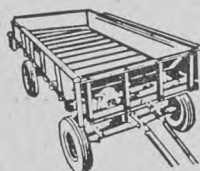
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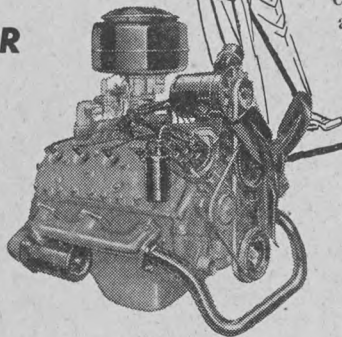
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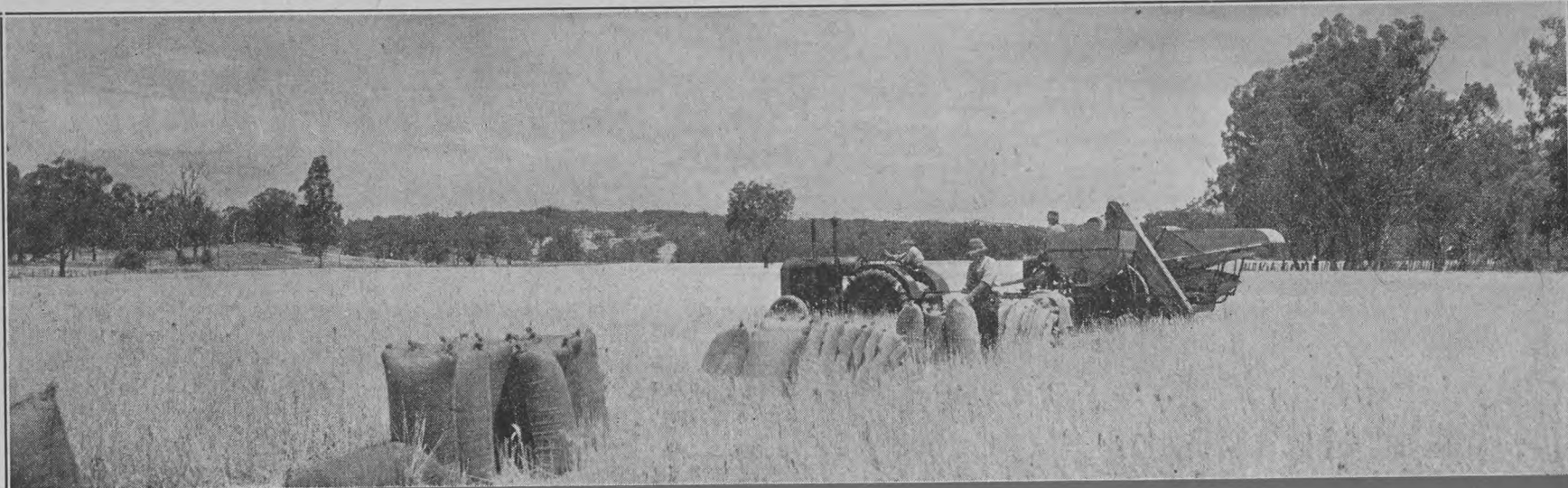
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Australian Wheat Growers Grumble

Wheat harvest at Wallabadah, New South Wales, where soldier settlers of World War I are getting seven bags (21 bushels) per acre.

THE chairman of the Australian Wheat Board, Sir John Teasdale, told wheat farmers in mid-July that if there was no International Wheat Agreement, Australia could still sell all its wheat "because production was diminishing and demand was increasing." He told farmers that if a new International Wheat Agreement was made, it would not be done until after the United States presidential election. Sir John added that the United States and Britain would fix any agreement, and if they did, Australia would have to be a party to it.

He did not think there would be a new international agreement enacted, because the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, which had to approve it, would have to agree to continuing a subsidy arrangement which has been costing \$150 million a year for the past four years. Opinion in the United Kingdom was that if a new agreement was made, the price to Australia would not be more than 19s. 1d. (\$2.07) a bushel.

Other speakers endorsed Sir John Teasdale's remarks, saying that Australia should not be a party to a renewal of the International Wheat Agreement. Australia, they claimed, could sell all the wheat it wished in soft currency areas.

Recently, the 23rd annual conference of the Wheatgrowers' Union of New South Wales approved the principle of organized marketing of wheat on an Australia-wide basis.

The conference also approved several points of the Australian Wheatgrowers' Federation 17-point plan for marketing of wheat after the expiry of the Wheat Stabilization Act in the Commonwealth in 1953.

Points approved were:

- That the Australian Wheat Board be the sole authority for marketing all wheat and flour externally, and no export permits be issued to any other person or authority.

- That the International Wheat Agreement be continued, the ceiling price to be lifted by not less than 3s. a bushel, and the floor price by at least 5s.

- That Australia's I.W.A. quota shall not exceed 65 million bushels.

- That if there is no international agreement, the Federation approve a policy by the Australian Wheat Board whereby the Board would charge the ruling export market price while that figure exceeded the determined cost of production plus a reasonable margin of profit; and when it did not, the Board would charge the cost of production, plus profit.

AUSTRALIA will have no wheat to sell on the free world market from the 1952-53 crop,

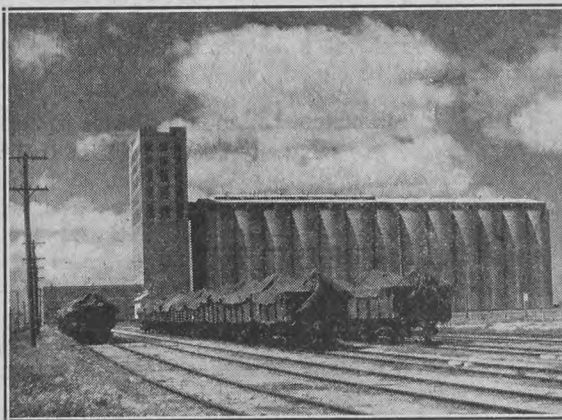
Wheat producers want tax relief, higher I.W.A. prices and a lower quota

by REAY WILSON



S. Limber, Forbes, N.S.W., biggest Australian grower (17,000 acres), cuts a 4,000-acre field with 12-foot headers, to get 12 bags per acre.

Australians claim this four million bushel terminal (below) at Geelong, Victoria, to be one of the most advanced in the world.



[Australian official photos]

authorities forecast. Wheat production in the Commonwealth is showing a very serious, and even alarming, decline. It is unlikely that the 1952 harvest will yield more than 135 million bushels, or that the Australian Wheat Board will receive more than 115 million bushels. This will barely cover Australia's domestic requirements and her commitments under the International Wheat Agreement.

Because there will be no wheat sold, therefore, on the free market at world parity prices, the average return to the growers will be about 11s. 5d. a bushel in New South Wales. This is less than

growers were paid for wheat of their 1947-48 crop (when the Agreement was entered into), and production costs have spiralled since then. Even if Australia was able to sell wheat on the free market, the return to growers from the crop would be so low that it would not encourage a bigger planting for the 1953-54 season. Authorities claim that if the Federal government really wanted wheat growers to produce more, as it has stated on many occasions since coming into power, then it should announce some definite policy to encourage bigger plantings for the 1953-54 season.

The whole future of wheat marketing in Australia is to be decided about the end of the year when growers will have a referendum on stabilization, orderly marketing, or a return to open market, because the 1948 Act expires with the 1952-53 crop. The lack of confidence which growers generally have in the Federal government approach to the industry, can well be the deciding factor in the ballot.

It is estimated that the International Wheat Agreement has cost Australian producers about £37 million between August, 1949, and March, 1952. During that period sales of wheat under the agreement averaged about 3s. 7d. per bushel below world parity prices. This large amount would be very helpful to Australia's depleted sterling balance in London; and it would certainly have put a brake on the decline in wheat production, a wheat industry leader told your correspondent.

"The free export market price at present is about 20s. 6d. a bushel, with a steady basis over the last three years of 18s. a bushel," he said, adding that "the agreement has also tied wheat prices during a period when the Australian economy has been stretched to the limit by inflation."

The general secretary of the Farmers' and Settlers' Association, Mr. T. J. McDougall, recently forecast that the 1952-53 wheat crop in New South Wales (the largest wheat-producing State in the Commonwealth) would drop by 500,000 acres as compared with the 2.7 million acres harvested last season. He said the wheat crop in Australia had dropped at an average rate of nearly 700,000 acres a year during the last five years.

In 1947-48 wheat covered 13.88 million acres in Australia. During the four years that have followed, the annual acres have been: 12.58 million acres in 1948-49; 12.24 million in 1949-50; 11.66 million in 1950-51; and only 10.43 million acres in 1951-52. The decline has been most serious from a national point of view; so serious, in fact, that the Federal government last March appealed to growers to produce as (Please turn to page 68)

The Livestock Situation



A review of cattle and hog marketing prepared recently for the Ontario Poultry and Livestock Conference

by L. W. PEARSALL

DURING the 12 years from 1940 to 1951, the Canadian livestock industry encountered no serious marketing problems. British contracts for beef until 1948, and for pork until 1950, provided virtually an unlimited market. In 1948, shipments of cattle and beef were resumed to the United States, and the buoyancy of that market through the next three years reflected an equal strength in the Canadian market, and created a very favorable condition for Canadian beef producers. British buying of pork in Canada stopped at the end of 1950. The hog market, temporarily at least, took that loss in its stride and, with production by no means burdensome, hog prices in 1951 followed beef prices to record high levels.

Some signs of change, and the possibility of less favorable export outlets, were already building up in the latter part of 1951. All surveys of probable hog production indicated considerably heavier marketings for the period from October, 1951, to September, 1952. The surveys actually underestimated the amount of build-up in hog population, but did indicate that the change from a seller's to a buyer's market in pork was probably in the offing.

In the meanwhile, cattle populations had been building up steadily in the U.S. and, more recently, in Canada. The predictions that had been made in previous years, that beef supplies were on the point of catching up with demand, seem even more likely of realization in 1952.

Those were the circumstances under which the Canadian livestock industry entered the present year. A decade during which there had been no practical limits to the quantity of meat to be sold in Britain, had been followed by a year in which the only apparent effect of the loss of the British market was to bring record high prices for Canadian hogs and cattle. Hog and cattle populations, however, were building up to a point where supply was not far from catching up with demand in the

periodically shifting trend of the market place. Then, in February of this year—without warning—the livestock industry was brought face to face with a situation with which it had never before had to contend. For many years, Canada has been a surplus producer of livestock or livestock products. The changing vicissitudes of trade and restrictions have, from time to time, shifted the weight of our exports of these products between Britain and the United States; but always one market or the other was open, and Canada's surplus of livestock or meats could be disposed of there. In February, Canada faced the fact that both its major export markets would be closed.

THE outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Saskatchewan was relatively unimportant in terms of the cost of eradicating the disease, and the number of animals destroyed. The area affected was hardly more than a pinpoint on the map of western Canada, involving only 28 premises and the slaughter of about 1,200 head of livestock.

During the last six months the United Kingdom has had 482 outbreaks, involving over 62,000 head of livestock. In many countries, foot-and-mouth disease is considered a normal hazard of the livestock business. While in London recently the head veterinarian of the British Ministry of Agriculture showed me, somewhat facetiously, an official report from a country in continental Europe, to the effect that foot-and-mouth disease there was now considered to be under control, since the incidence of the disease had been reduced from about 253 to 140 outbreaks per week. People living in this atmosphere find it difficult to understand why 28 outbreaks in a limited area should be considered a national catastrophe.

The seriousness of the foot-and-mouth outbreak in Canada is, of course, that we are surplus meat producers, dependent under present conditions on

the United States for an outlet for that surplus; and the United States, as a means of controlling foot-and-mouth disease, bans imports from infected countries.

If Canada were not a surplus meat producer, the foot-and-mouth outbreak would have brought no serious difficulty other than that of eradicating it. If we still had the British market freely open to us, the difficulties resulting from the outbreak would certainly have been of less consequence. But we do have surpluses, and we do not have free access to the United Kingdom. Almost overnight, the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease focussed the attention of agricultural interests on the trends that have been taking place in our world trade, particularly for agricultural products.

In a general way, every Canadian farmer knows that England is buying less food from Canada, and that we, in turn, are selling more agricultural products to the United States. In 1938, for example, we sent 71.9 per cent of our agricultural exports to the U.K., and 16.5 per cent to the U.S. By 1951, we had reversed the picture, sending 65.3 per cent to the U.S., and only 9.7 per cent to the U.K.

Every Canadian also understands, in a general way, that the basic causes underlying this shift in world trade are currency, or sterling-dollar, difficulties, and the relatively high or inflationary prices on the North American continent. Britain's inability, or unwillingness, to buy more of her food requirements from Canada is usually explained in the three-word phrase "shortage of dollars." While this is true, it is true only in part, and ignores some fundamental considerations. Shortage of dollars is a relative term. Last year, the United Kingdom spent \$632,804,000 in Canada, compared with \$328,886,000 in 1939. During the past five years, 1947 to 1951 inclusive, the United Kingdom's average dollar expenditure in Canada totalled \$651,392,000 as compared with a five-year (1935-39) prewar average of (Please turn to page 48)

The Man who worked for JOE THE BARBER

by LESLIE GORDON BARNARD

MY brother Sid and I used sometimes to hang around Joe's Barber Shop just to hear Joe rasp his tongue over George Hill. George was a two-bit little man to look at; he had a scruffy ring of hair about a bald spot which was so evenly round you could have used it as a pattern to cut out paper doilies. He hadn't much of a face, as faces go, but his smile was something you couldn't forget. It wasn't just the crinkle of the smile itself, but whatever there was in George that lit it.

Joe the barber, who was a very different kind of man—lean and loose-lipped—used to tease George unmercifully. He'd rib him about his clean-mouthed talk, his sobriety, his meticulous regard for the truth, and every last thing that George believed in and lived by. He just couldn't let George and George's way of life alone.

Sid and I used to sit and marvel, always waiting—and, I am afraid, hoping—that George would fly off the handle and hit back. I remember one of the older boys saying one day: "Look, why do you take it, George? Why don't you tell him off plenty? Why don't you slap his face for him? Or, are you afraid he'll fire you?" And George saying, slowly, "Why, no, I don't think Joe'd fire me. I guess I'm too kind of useful around here for him to think of firing me," but for a moment you could detect alarm at the mere idea. "No," he said, "you see, sonny, the things a man fights most against, why, the fact is they still mean something important to him. If they didn't he'd soon stop making fun of them."

George worked for Joe the barber for the magnificent sum of nine dollars a week. A dollar bought more then, but few men were ever so happy on so little. He lived at Mrs. Baker's boardinghouse, in a small room at the back which afforded him a view of her clothesline and outhouses and a tall, ugly fence much favored by cats at night. He paid her three-fifty a week for it, and ate his meals either in his room or at the Chinaman's across the way. Sometimes he'd cut thick slices from a loaf that would last him most of the week, insert careful slices of mousetrap cheese, and later go over to the Chinaman's for coffee to wash it down. Mrs. Baker didn't want things "hotted up" in her rooms by lodgers who didn't care to eat her regular meals, or, like George, couldn't afford to. It never seemed to occur to Joe to up George's salary at all. And you'd think, to hear him crack at George, he'd bought the right to that, too, for his nine dollars a week.

I guess no man ever had a job that meant more to him than this did to George, even if it meant being the butt of Joe's doubtful humor. When he got into a cast-off white coat of Joe's that he'd cobbled up to fit him more or less—using a needle and thread in Mrs. Baker's dim back room—you wouldn't ask a prouder or happier guy.

He wasn't trained in any barber college, and when he struck Cranesville looking for work, Joe hired him at first just to clean up the place and similar chores. Then, rush hours, George got to cutting hair. Joe set him to work on kids whose families didn't care too much how expert the shearing was, but slowly George got the hang of it and soon there were none of us younger fry who'd have anyone else. Our parents weren't too keen on the fact that Joe had a poolroom right back of the barber shop, and we were regularly



Myrnie smiled and said: "Don't tell me you're afraid to cut my hair, Joe!"

Perhaps no man ever had a job that meant more to him than did George Hill. Joe, who feared no man and all women, teased him unmercifully. Then Myrnie came into the picture

warned just to get our haircuts and come straight home; but George kept an eye out for us. He'd sense when anything was shaping or going wrong, and he had a kind of instinct when to poke his head around the thick faded mulberry curtains that shut off the two pool tables at the back from the three barber chairs in front. He'd never scold us, but there were things you just didn't do or say in the same room as George. And if any of us got into trouble it was to George we went. He had a way of letting us talk; then, if you hadn't already talked yourself into a solution he'd come up with some suggestion, wise, and usually very simple.

He could handle womenfolk, too, which was more than Joe the barber could.

JOE liked to give the impression that he feared neither God nor man; but you never saw a man more in awe of a skirt. Joe gave all women a wide berth, if he could. In the presence of what he considered an attractive or pretty one he was uneasy; and in the presence of an angry one, he was paralyzed. When, rarely, some woman came into the barber shop, it wouldn't matter to Joe whether it was just a mother, sweetly instructing how she wanted her offspring's hair cut, or an incensed one complaining about the temporary spoiling of little

Johnny's looks; he'd just mumble something about seeing where the new lot of cue chalk had got to and slip into the poolroom, and leave it to George.

Joe was never very loquacious about his past; all we knew was that before he came to Cranesville and stuck up his striped pole on our main street, he'd lived with his Uncle Sim down east somewhere, in a purely masculine atmosphere of drink, horses, and doubtful language, and that his Uncle Sim had warned him, "Let a woman once get her hands on you, and you'll know she could give lessons to a limpet. You stay away from 'em, Joe," he'd say. And it seemed that until Myrnie Wilmot came into the picture he had managed pretty well.

There was a lot of sly joking about Myrnie in Cranesville, which we boys vaguely echoed, wanting to appear grown-up and knowledgeable. Secretly we were greatly in awe of her: of her mop of blond hair which nobody had told us was bleached, of her exaggerated bust and her vivid coloring, and the way she walked and wore her clothes.

Whatever the past history of Myrnie in Cranesville and, previously, elsewhere, her mother clearly saw in her a waning asset and it was just Joe's bad luck that she should have suddenly decided that here was an eligible male.

I happened to be in Joe the barber's, having a word with George about some fishing tackle he thought he could find for Sid and me, when Myrnie flounced in. I always figured it was Myrnie's mother who sent her in to get a haircut on the reasonable excuse that the Beauty Salon, where the women and girls ordinarily got theirs cut, was closed for a week because of minor fire and water damage; but, anyhow, before Joe could close his mouth on his surprise, there Myrnie was, calmly seated in his barber chair.

(Please turn to page 76)

Illustrated by Robert Reck

Britain's Young Farmers' Clubs

"GOOD Farmers, Good Countrymen and Good Citizens": This is the three-fold objective of Young Farmers' Clubs in both Scotland and England. During their stay in Britain this summer the Ontario Junior Farmers' delegation had an opportunity to see how these objectives are realized through a program of activities.

Perhaps one of the most impressive features of this program was the fact that it is planned well in advance. While visiting the Crossroads Young Farmers' Club in Ayrshire, I was privileged to attend one of their executive meetings, at which plans were made for the fall and winter season 1952-53. When this syllabus is complete it will be printed and distributed among the members, so that all may know the date and place of each meeting and the name of the speaker and his subject.

Since a large proportion of the membership is drawn from farm young people, considerable emphasis is placed on helping them to become more skilful in their profession. During the fall and winter months, meetings are generally held twice a month, one session being devoted to the study of some agricultural topic, and the other to a social night, or talk on some subject of general interest. For example, a typical syllabus will include talks or films on such topics as "pigs for bacon production" and "grassland management," as well as speakers drawn from such groups as ministers, bankers, policemen or doctors. This variation of subject matter is particularly important in Britain, because some members are not engaged in agriculture, but live and work in towns and villages. There is also a much wider difference in age groups. Membership in England is open to boys and girls from 10 to 25, and in Scotland from 14 to 26. Such conditions demand a program carefully planned to meet the needs and interests of all members.

One of the differences between the Young Farmers' programs and those of the Ontario Junior Farmers is that in Britain there are fewer separate sessions for the girls. Possibly this is due to the fact that farm girls in Britain take a larger share in the outdoor work than Ontario girls, and they are, therefore, just as interested as the boys in agricultural topics. However, there are generally one or two split meetings in the season. On these occasions the girls enjoy a talk or demonstration on cooking, sewing, or perhaps good grooming.

In addition to these educational meetings, several social evenings are held during the season. These may include parents' nights, debates, quizzes or discussion groups, inter-club visits and, of course, dances. During our visit with the Stirling Young Farmers we attended one of their club dances. Much to our surprise, it began promptly at eight o'clock and continued until two, with only a brief intermission for refreshments. While square dancing is becoming popular in Britain, most of the Young Farmers are very fond of their national dances and we joined gaily in the eightsome reels and the Gay Gordons.

As in Ontario, there are few indoor meetings during the summer months. A popular activity at this time is a farm walk, or visit to one of the outstanding farms in the district. These visits are usually held on Saturday afternoons when there is little work done on the farms, since the unionized farm workers enjoy a 44-hour week. The Young Farmers inspect each crop and field and question the farmer regarding fertilization, rotation, rate of seeding, yield, and other subjects. Then they visit the livestock and the farm buildings, asking for details on this phase of the farm operations.

by BETTY BOYLE



Ednam Young Farmers, Scotland, judge sheep at a club field day.



Devon Young Farmers demonstrate spar making.

FIELD days are another part of the outdoor program. Soon after our arrival in Scotland, we attended a highly successful field day staged by the Ednam Young Farmers' Club in the Border district. We were surprised to find that it consisted of a series of agricultural competitions rather than sports. We were interested in the first competition, singling, a new one to us. In this, the contestants, both boys and girls, were required to thin out three rows of mangolds, leaving a space between each plant equal to the width of the hoe they were using. In determining the winner, consideration is given to the neatness of the final result as well as the general thoroughness of the job itself.

Stock judging was the next event. Again, both boys and girls took part in placing one class of four Aberdeen-Angus and two classes of sheep. Then the boys went off to the barn for the sheep-shearing competition, in which they used a pair of hand clippers. Speed and efficiency in the shearing, as well as the neatness with which the fleece was rolled up, all counted in determining the winner.

What four Ontario Junior Farmers' Club members saw and heard in Britain, among Britain's Young Farmers

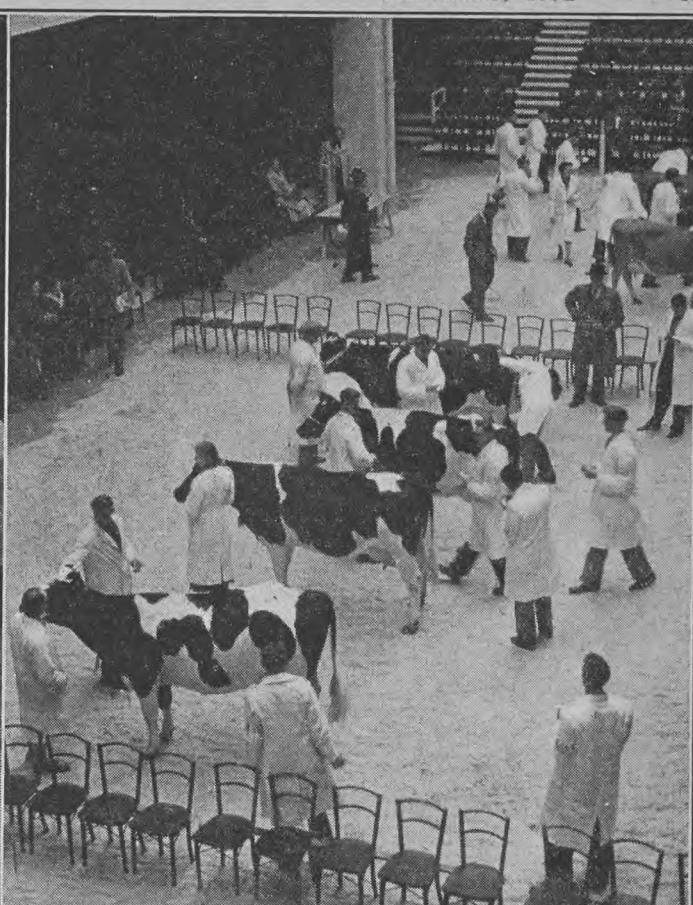
In the meantime the girls gathered in the house for their competitions, one of which consisted in darning an old sock. Another novel contest was arranging small flowers in a tea cup. The number of varieties as well as the general effect was considered in choosing the winner. Next, the girls were required to accurately identify 25 samples of material, ranging from silk and satin to cotton and corduroy and including many types of rayon.

There were other interesting competitions after tea. One of these consisted of tossing a sheaf over a wooden bar, which was raised after each round to see who could pitch it highest. Incidentally, the boys' event was won by Bruce Ellis from Alberta, one of the Canadian Nuffield Scholarship boys in Britain, who happened to be in that area at the time of our visit. Guessing the weight of such common objects as a bale of hay, or a roll of fencing, was another popular contest. How far is one hundred yards? Try pacing it out and see how close you can come to the correct distance. This competition aroused plenty of interest in both boys and girls, who could be seen carefully counting their steps. Most of the boys, as well as one or two of the girls, then tried their skill at driving a tractor over a difficult figure-eight course and backing through a narrow gateway. The day ended with the presentation of prizes to the winners.

STOCK judging is very popular among Young Farmers and this phase of their program is given considerable emphasis. Since the livestock industry is so important in Britain's agricultural life, club members devote a great deal of time to livestock judging. Both Scotland and England are represented in the International Beef and Dairy Cattle Judging Competitions. Unfortunately, these had to be cancelled this year, owing to the serious outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. In addition there are many stock-judging contests on national and county levels.

Mock auctions are another favorite competition with Scottish Young Farmers. Since most of the farmers' cattle are purchased at auction sales, this contest serves a very practical purpose, as well as stimulating interest in stock judging. A farm with a good variety of stock is chosen for the contest, and a panel of expert valuers decides the true value of the stock to be "auctioned." In arranging this event it is necessary to take into account the number of buyers and the number of cattle available. Sometimes the members are grouped in two's or three's and buy as a team. Usually they are required to purchase not less than two and not more than four. Each animal is led into the ring and the bidding goes on until a sale is made. The buyer's name and address, the number of the animal and the price paid, are noted on a card, which is turned in to be scored. When all the animals have been disposed of, the Young Farmers must complete the business transaction by writing cheques and obtaining receipts. In scoring the cards, a certain number of points are allowed for each animal bought. Points are deducted for each bid (usually five shillings) paid above the valuers' figure, and added for each bid paid below this amount. A bonus may be given for each animal bought. The contest may be varied by fixing the amount of money each contestant may spend, and giving a prize to the one who purchases the most animals.

Farm valuation competitions are also popular with Young Farmers. This, too, has a practical purpose, since it helps to prepare the club member for the day when he will purchase a farm of his own, by teaching him what points to take into consideration when buying (Please turn to page 33)

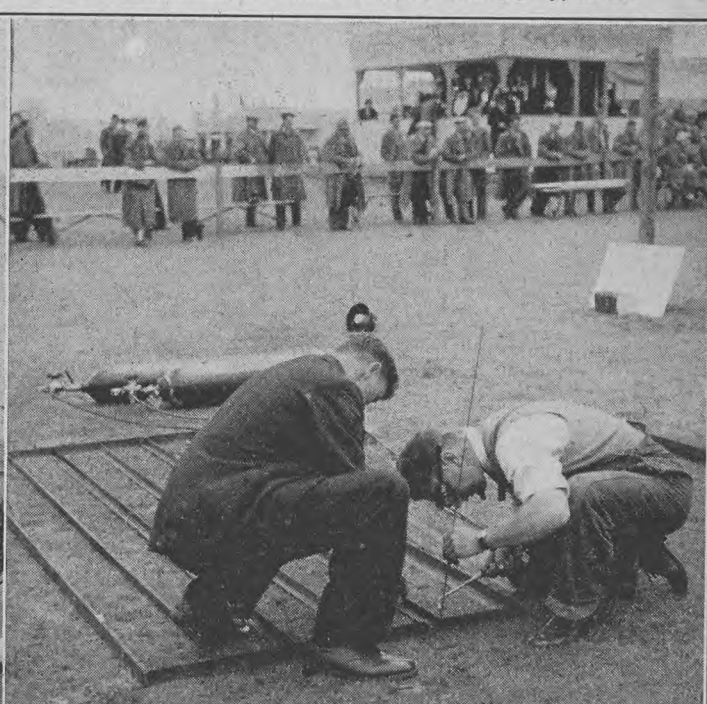
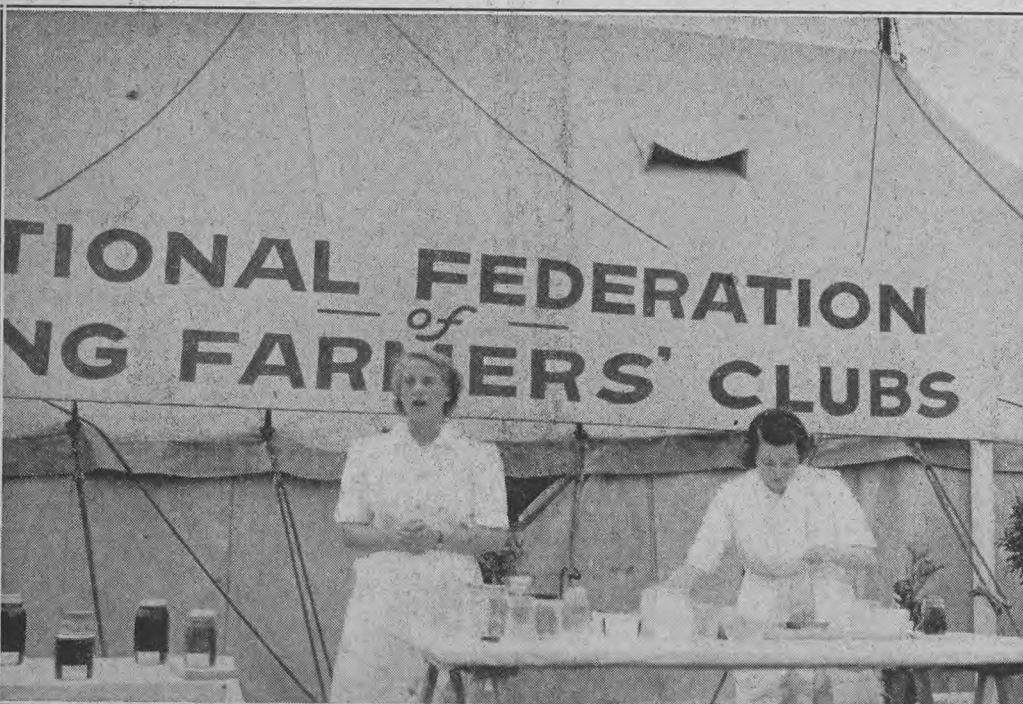


Young Farmer girls truss poultry in competition at the Royal Highland Show, June, 1952. Members of National Federation of Y.F. Clubs judge livestock.



Willie Scott, a Scot, demonstrates dry stone dyke building.

A Young Farmers' exhibit at the English Royal Show, Newton Abbot, July, 1952.

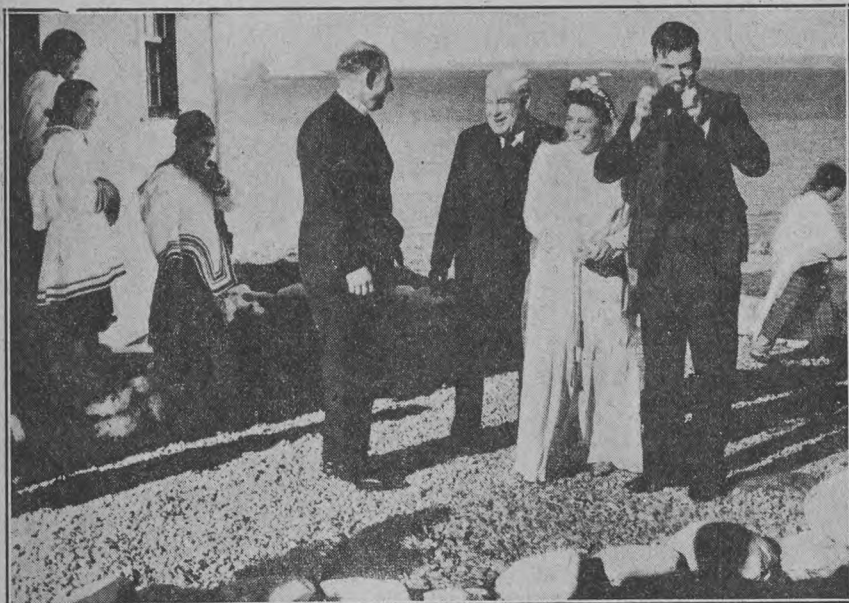


Two Shropshire Y.F. lasses demonstrate fruit preservation at this year's Royal.

Welding demonstration by Falkirk Y.F. at Highland Show.

Saga of the Arctic

by NAN SHIPLEY



John Turner, Major McKeand, Joan and Rev. T. Dauiby are observed by curious Eskimos on the event of the Turner-Hobart wedding at Pond Inlet in 1944.

WHEN, a short time ago, Canadian newspapers carried a brief item headed: "Canon Turner's syllabics go out to his Eskimos," readers everywhere were reminded of the greatest air rescue of all time a few years ago. Now, for the first time, 5,000 Eskimos may read the Old Testament in their own language, but many remember the death of a brave man and the long jeopardy of a score of others that lay behind the effort to make this possible.

It is necessary to glance first at the events which led to Operation Canon in 1947, a drama which held the imagination and genuine concern of the whole North American continent and England for many weeks.

John Turner was born in Felixstowe, England, in 1905, one of three brothers, and was known affectionately as Jack. That he was born four months after his father's death is an oddly significant fact since one of his own children was to have the same experience. At the age of 24 and while working as a pharmacist Jack decided to become a missionary, and after graduation in 1929 he sailed for Canada to open his first mission at Pond Inlet—a dot on the map on the east coast of Baffin Island, 1,000 miles beyond the timberline and 1,700 miles due north of Winnipeg.

Here he worked among the Eskimos, adapting himself to their rugged mode of life and covering more than 21,000 miles by dog-sled in ten years, as he travelled among them. The nomadic Eskimos usually travel in groups of three or four families and make camp wherever hunting is good, often hundreds of miles from other camps, and Jack Turner's visits played a great and important part in their lives. He was called into their igloos to treat many broken bones when legs or hands were smashed between ice-blocks and komatiks, had bad teeth to extract, and gangrenous toes and fingers to amputate after frost-bite. Meantime the small children waited patiently until these tasks were completed, then they would cluster about him when he brought out his concertina and join him in singing hymns that he had translated into their own tongue.

At some cost and great effort Jack built two other mission-houses—one at Fort Ross, the most northerly Hudson's Bay trading post, and at Moffet Inlet on the northwest coast of Baffin Island, 75 miles from the post at Arctic Bay and the nearest neighbor! All building material had to be brought to Baffin Island by the gallant little supply ship Nascopie, roughly at the shipping cost of \$150 per ton, and then transported by dog team inland and erected in the three short summer months of sunlight. To these three missions the Eskimo children came when Jack was "in residence" to look at picture books, work jig-saw puzzles and try to pick small prizes from a pan of water he had charged

with electricity by wiring old radio batteries together. The wind-up of these affairs was always a tea race when a large bowl of the steaming treat was set out and the children, armed with long sticks of macaroni, would await a signal to see how quickly the bowl could be emptied.

In 1939 Jack Turner returned to England on furlough and met Joan Hobart, a young nurse of exceptional courage and the highest character. She found him a romantic, handsome figure, big and blond and weighing 250 pounds, every ounce of it toughened by his life among the Eskimos and the recently completed epic trip of 3,000 miles above the Arctic Circle, most of it alone, and said to be the most outstanding journey ever achieved. They fell in love but Jack could not bring himself to ask Joan to share his hard, lonely and dangerous life among the Eskimos although he confessed to her—"It would be the greatest trial of my life to have to leave them."

HE returned to the North alone but Joan was convinced that their future lay together, and entered the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Training College for Women in order that, equipped as a missionary nurse, she could dedicate her life to the service of others. In 1943, when Jack wrote asking Joan to share his life in the Arctic, she was ready.

She reached Montreal in the summer of 1944 in time to board the Nascopie, the Hudson's Bay Company supply ship that annually carried food, medicine, mail and occasionally brides to little ports along the bleak coasts of Labrador, Hudson Bay and Baffin Island. Pond Inlet was reached after midnight of August 29 and Joan wrote in her diary—"By three a.m. we had dropped anchor and I went out on deck. The beauty of the morning and the scenery was indescribable. The sun was just

One of the greatest of air rescues serves to remind the world of the faithful and devoted mission of John Turner to the Eskimos in the North, and the dauntless courage and fortitude of Joan, the English girl, who became his wife

rising over the snow-capped mountains at the back of the Post, the air was frosty and invigorating and the deep blue sea was unruffled by any wind. This glorious morning was a forerunner of a wonderfully fine sunny day which proved to be the warmest and most perfect of the whole summer. It wasn't long before Jack had come aboard and we met again just after four years."

This was Joan's wedding day and in addition to the ship's crew many natives were in attendance at the ceremony, wide-eyed at the white bridal dress and veil, and the huge wedding cake baked by the Nascopie's cook.

SOON after her arrival in the Arctic Joan met 12-year-old Kamane Dahneekie, an orphan who expressed the desire to be adopted by the missionaries. Kamane lived with her grandparents and like all christianized natives was permitted to choose a name of her own liking. The name she chose was Rebecca—one synonymous with service, and from the very beginning she was a wonderful aid and companion to Joan, invaluable the following summer when they were living at Pond Inlet and a daughter was born 800 miles from the nearest doctor and without outside assistance. Joan faced this event with characteristic calm, fortified by her own professional knowledge and the fact that as a graduate of pharmacy Jack knew the value of a few basic drugs and always kept the mission medicine chest well stocked.

June was the first white baby born in Pond Inlet, and the Eskimos came great distances to see her. When the baby was two months old the family of four moved across the island to Moffet Inlet to the three-room house Jack had built himself, 75 miles from their nearest neighbor, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McCormack, Hudson's Bay manager at Arctic Bay.

The isolated Turner mission was situated on a point of land that jutted out into the sea, with a range of low, bare mountains as a backdrop, behind which lay innumerable small, unnamed lakes.

Drinking water was their greatest problem, for although they lived on the seashore Jack had to travel 25 miles back to the lakes beyond the mountains for fresh water in the summertime. In winter snow and ice were melted. They could have eased the situation by moving closer to their supply but this would have meant (Please turn to page 42)



Members of the combined army-air force rescue team pose with Joan Turner, her two children and the Eskimo girl, Rebecca, who accompanied her on her return to England.

The Stewarts of Ailsa Craig and the Four S's

*Soil, science, seed and sagacity each contribute effectively
to this Ontario father-and-son partnership*

by H. S. FRY

MORE than 30 years ago I heard an able professor from the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, say that Middlesex County contained some of the best natural grassland to be found anywhere in North America. Whatever the truth may be, the fact is that today Middlesex has around 20 per cent more acres in fall wheat and oats than its combined acreage in grass, clover and alfalfa. A significant change-over from grass to cash crops has occurred during the past five years. In Williams Township, where A. M. Stewart and Son farm 296 acres near Ailsa Craig, the reduction in grass during this period has been from about 58 per cent to 25 per cent of the arable acreage.

The transformation from the original solid bush of the "Huron Tract" to a relatively high percentage of cash crops in 1951 required 125 years. The struggles of the early settlers and their large families developed circumstances which eventually led to much of the cleared land being seeded to grass. Habit and tradition did the rest.

"My father was a drover," said Alex Stewart, "and he taught that feeding cattle and manure were essential to good farming. When this 200 acres was bought in 1909, the second hundred had only 20 acres cleared. The nearest hundred is an excellent silt loam, but the other has required a lot of building up. There were times when we hauled manure and feed from the one, to feed the cattle on the other."

IN 1910, Alex came west—to Lethbridge—with the idea that he might remain on the prairies. He spent the winter acquiring some useful experience, but finally decided to return east; and began operating the 200-acre farm in 1911. From then until 1924, he carried on as a general or mixed farmer, always feeding cattle, but gradually realizing that there was more money to be made from cash crops than from grass. Cattle feeding, however, is practiced to this day, and each year about 110 steers are fed.

Incidentally, Alex Stewart regards "prairie wool" with considerable respect. In 1937, he brought east, as feeders, 11 carloads of cattle from the Sceptre-Leader area in Saskatchewan. He secured 119 head from one herd, and naturally chose those he thought would make the best feeders. Later, after feeding his purchases on Middlesex County bluegrass, he was surprised to learn that the cattle he had rejected had done as well on prairie wool as those treated to bluegrass.

IT was not until 1924 that he sold his first seed, which turned out to be a wise move. Today, he and his son, John A. (to distinguish him from John R., a cousin and another well-known Middlesex County member of Clan Stewart), operate the home 200 acres, and an additional 96 acres five miles away. Production is primarily to provide high-quality seed grown under their own supervision, for distribution to contract growers in the surrounding area. It is significant that this year something over 5,200 acres of contract seed grain are being grown entirely on the basis of a gentleman's agreement, except for the size of the final cheque. Eight varieties, including wheat, oats and barley, are produced in this way.

The partners handle this large volume of seed grain through their own warehouse and seed cleaning plant in Ailsa Craig. The division of responsibility is roughly this: John A. is production manager, and Alex is sales manager, though they do not give themselves titles. John runs the farm, makes the arrangements with the contract growers and sees the seed through the warehouse and cleaning plant into the cars. Alex then takes over and brings home the bacon. Much of the seed that is sold now is exported—as much as 140 cars in one year.

Entree to the U.S. market in 1937, followed the winning of a world oat championship at Chicago, and a repeat in 1947 didn't hurt the business any. Sometimes big orders come through from American customers that the partners cannot fill themselves, and Alex, who is a past president of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (John is now a director), is widely known among registered seed growers, and can scout around and find what is needed, if it is available.

THIS story is mostly about the producing end of the partnership, and from here on will therefore stay in John A.'s territory, with Alex, full of wisdom and experience, keeping an eye on both of us. John, 33, a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, chairman of the Middlesex County Soils Committee, and with military experience behind him, believes in bringing science to the farm and putting it to work. With highly specialized and therefore valuable crops—wheat, oats, barley, soybeans, white beans, corn, alfalfa, red clover—he wants to see every acre doing a full season's job every year. This means soil management, fields that grow crops of uniform quality, effective weed control, maintenance of fertility, and timely tillage operations.

It will undoubtedly surprise many western farmers to learn that this 296-acre farm is divided into 29 fields. The requirements of registered seed production, plus the variety of crops grown, have necessitated eight different crop rotations. The same variety of crops, plus emphasis on fertility, have evolved eight different fertilizer formulae which are especially mixed to John's specifications. Basic to all operations on the farm is a complete year-by-year record, which is kept for every field, with an accuracy equal to that of a breeder of purebred livestock in the recording of his pedigrees.

The focal point of farm management is weed control, necessitated by the rigid purity standards



Alex M. and John A. Stewart examine some hybrid seed corn.

established by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and supported by the Canada Seeds Act. Where moisture is more plentiful, weeds flourish readily, and this necessitates flexible rotations and easily adjustable plans for every field. For weed control, John relies primarily on corn, soybeans, sugar beets and white beans, in this order. When a field shows weediness, these crops are put to work to the necessary extent, the field cleaned up, and a new rotation established for the area.

EXCEPT for the primary importance of weeds in registered seed production, soil fertility would hold first priority. Actually, it has this priority, anyway, but weeds on a seed farm are something like having a broken leg: it is well to do something about it immediately, even though in the long run it may be more important to have enough to eat. Here is John himself to talk about fertility:

"It has required a long, hard series of years on this farm to get the answers to some of our soil fertility problems; and to put us in a position where we can successfully plan and maintain the producing ability of our soil. The problem is to learn to balance a number of very important factors. These include the structure or physical condition of the soil, its organic or mineral content, moisture, temperature, a healthy life under the surface (bacteria, earthworms, fungi, molds), and finally, the fertility measures that are man-made, such as tillage practices, the use of manures and fertilizers, as well as rotations.

"We stress the maintenance of nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, calcium and magnesium levels. We use soil testing kits and, as nearly as possible, I test the soil of each field once a month. We analyze our soils for organic (Please turn to page 88)



The girl by the fireplace did not move. She kept her hands in the pockets of her coat and ignored his outstretched hand.

IT WAS a beautiful fall day, warm and drowsy, and the little village of Pelican Bay lay basking in the sunshine.

It was a day to gladden the heart of any man, but Donald McTavish was too preoccupied with his thoughts to see the riotous colors of the poplars and maples clad in their fall best, or the tall stately pine trees that fringed the lake and encircled Pelican Bay.

He walked slowly and reluctantly toward the pier that stretched out in the sparkling waters of the lake and perched himself on the top step of the white lighthouse.

The *Northland Queen* just rounding the south point, steaming majestically into the Bay, was bringing Tanya Ellis back after all these years.

McTavish bit hard on his pipe and squinted against the sun. Eleven years was a long time, a long time perhaps to harbor resentment and anger, but a lifetime wouldn't be long enough for him to stop hating Tanya for what she had done to Joe. Joe was as dear to him as his own two sons and her behavior had been unforgivable and he still burned with resentment when he thought of that summer of eleven years ago.

Why was she coming back to Pelican Bay? Was it to see Joe again? That seemed hardly likely. She must have known Joe well enough to realize that he, of all people, would never forgive or forget. Did she really think the rest of them had forgotten and would welcome her back as they once had done? Oh no, surely not. Well, her reason for returning was her own affair. They couldn't keep her out of Pelican much as they resented her, but they could and would let her feel their contempt and hostility. There was grim justice in the thought.

He drew a much-thumbed letter from his pocket and reread it although he could have quoted most of it from memory. It was an odd letter, hinting

at this and that, but saying nothing definite.

"Dear Mac—" it began. "You will be surprised and, no doubt, dismayed when I tell you that Tanya is planning on returning to Pelican Bay and will be staying indefinitely at the Lodge on the river. She is coming alone, much against her sister's wishes and mine, for we feel she is in no condition to be alone, and I am asking you, for the sake of our friendship to help her all you can. She has been through a horrible experience, Mac, and has suffered much. If you only knew, you would forget any resentment you may still harbor against her."

So she had suffered had she! Well, so had poor Joe, but a lot she had worried about that.

"Tanya has made me promise not to tell you anything about her troubles. She says she does not want pity from you or anyone else. None of us want pity, it is true, but everyone, at some time in his life needs help, and the kindness and sympathy of real friends, so I am asking you, Mac, to be generous and forgive Tanya for what she did once long ago to Joe, and befriend her. She needs your friendship and your help, for she is living in utter darkness."

The blue eyes of McTavish looked uncertain as they always did when he came to that part of the letter. Tanya in darkness? It hardly seemed possible. What had happened to her anyway? It wasn't like George to use such dramatic language.

McTavish turned the page and read on.

"This is the first sign of interest she has shown since her return, so, much against my better judgment, I am letting her go back to Pelican. God knows what the solitude and loneliness may do to her in her present condition, but it is a risk we must take. We would be very grateful, Evelyn and I, if you would meet her and take her to the Lodge yourself, and let us know how she is getting along. Her welfare means so much to us both."

A man couldn't disregard the request of an old friend, especially not an old friend like George Winspear, so here he was at the pier waiting for the *Northland Queen* that was bringing Tanya back to Pelican Bay.

McTavish stuffed the letter back into his pocket and sighed. He couldn't make anything out of the letter, and his feelings for Tanya remained the same.

He had not mentioned her coming to anyone except Martha. She, as his wife, had a right to know.

AT first Martha had been very indignant. "Coming to the Lodge indeed. I wonder that she has the nerve to come back, and I'm surprised at George for asking you to meet her. She could have hired a boat easily enough. Well if they think I'm going to entertain the likes of her they are badly mistaken. That girl will never set foot in my house. There's a limit to what one can be expected to do for one's friends, even such old friends as the Winspears."

Martha's face was a study when she read the letter. She put it back

Tanya

by KRISTINE BENSON KRISTOFFERSON

into the envelope and looked up at her husband. "That's a very confusing letter. Apparently she's been in some trouble and they are worried about her, but he doesn't say what it was. You know, Donald, he sounds—well almost afraid for Tanya. I don't like it. I don't like it one little bit."

Martha was a good woman, full of pity for the deserving and undeserving alike. He had seen her eyes and turned away, grunting like the Indians with whom they lived in Pelican Bay. Women were funny.

Martha had been just as boiling mad as he 11 years ago, and here she seemed about ready to forgive and forget. Well, not he. He would never forgive Tanya Ellis.

The *Northland Queen* was docking. McTavish stood up as the gangplank was pushed out to the pier and he saw Tanya walking across. She had grown into a lovely woman. He had forgotten how pretty she was. But she was thin, awfully thin,

Illustrated by Clarence Tillenius

and her quick movements suggested nervousness. McTavish bit hard on his pipe as he approached her.

"Hello, Miss Ellis," he began formally, as she turned to face him. Then he heard himself say with more friendliness than he had intended, "Hello, there, Tanya. It's been a long time since we met, hasn't it?"

Tanya Ellis smiled at him. That uncertain smile did something to the heart of old McTavish, though he would sooner have died than admit it. He was rather shocked when he looked closely at her. She looked as if she had been ill.

"Hello, Mac. Yes, it has been a long time, but you haven't changed. The years have been kind to you."

They were both silent. It was a little awkward not knowing what to say next, each knowing what was uppermost in the mind of the other.

"How about coming up to the house for a cup of tea?" he asked. "Martha said she'd be glad to have you."

As a matter of fact, Martha had said nothing of the kind, but he knew he could depend on Martha. Her natural hospitality would outweigh everything else. Tanya glanced toward the Hatchery where the McTavishes had their home.

"Thanks for asking me," she said, "but I'd like to go straight to the Lodge. Maybe some other time—" Her voice trailed off into silence and McTavish knew then that she was not fooling herself for a moment about their attitude toward her, and he found himself admiring her honesty. He saw her glance at the Indians loitering about and for just an instant the memory of Joe made his old antagonism flare.

"You needn't look so nervous, my dear—" he thought grimly. "You won't see his face among them. Thank heaven he's far away and need never know that you were here. He's forgotten you long ago, anyway, for you weren't worthy of being remembered." Joe had never once mentioned her name to anyone in all these years, but did that really mean that he had forgotten her? No one but Joe knew the answer to that and Joe was far away. McTavish turned his attention to loading Tanya's luggage in the *Jolly Canuck*. Tanya watched him in silence.

IT hadn't been easy meeting Mac, but he had been kinder than she had expected or deserved. She smiled to herself when she thought of Mac's invitation. As if Martha McTavish would ever ask her in for tea. It was a typical remark for a man to make to fill an awkward gap in the conversation.

Tanya looked up to see two little Indian girls in long print dresses staring solemnly at her. She stared back, hardly knowing that she did so. She had not seen faces like these since she left Pelican Bay, faces with high cheek bones and low foreheads, faces that looked strangely old, expressionless and stupid. They were unkempt-looking, their black hair long and straight and unevenly cut.

Tanya gripped her purse tightly between her fingers and turned away. She could not bear to look at those children who were old before their time from malnutrition and neglect. They didn't have a chance.

The engine of the *Jolly Canuck* roared, Tanya stepped on board and they were soon racing out of the harbor to the open waters of the Bay. The sun sparkled on the lake; the *Jolly Canuck* rose and fell rhythmically on the breast of the water leaving a foamy trail behind her.

Tanya looked at the shoreline they were run-

ning parallel with and her spirits rose. It was just as she had remembered it. The high banks on the shore gleamed white in the sunshine, the pines grew in a dense black mass on the top hiding the cabins scattered here and there. Four miles of shore and then they would be on the river.

McTavish re-lit his pipe, his hand resting lightly on the wheel. "How are the Winspears?" he asked. "They left kinda early this summer. Middle of July I believe. We were all sorry to see 'em go."

"They left because I came back," she replied slowly.

Their meeting at the station came back to her mind like a dreadful nightmare. She had spoiled their holiday as she spoiled everything else since her return. She should never have come back home. They met her at the station, Evelyn and George and the children and she had seen how hard they tried to pretend that everything was just the same as it had always been, but she had sensed the constraint, the forced gaiety and felt lonely even with her own people.

She had seen what it was doing to them, having her there in their home and the desperate desire to

Opening chapter of a serial by a new writer on the Canadian scene — here spirited young people work out their own courageous solution to living— set against a real northland background of forest, rivers, changing seasons, elemental forces and human passions — a story to linger in the memory because of its superbly drawn characters and vivid drama

get away grew stronger every day. Pelican Bay had offered a solution. The summer visitors had gone back to their homes in Winnipeg and she would be all alone five miles from Pelican Bay the closest residents, and no one in Pelican Bay felt friendly enough to bother with her, so she had come back.

McTavish broke into her thoughts. "Want to steer her for awhile?"

In the old days when they had been friends he had always let her pilot the boat, and she had been proud of the honor for Mac was as fussy as a mother hen with one chick where his boat was concerned. McTavish did not realize it, but at that moment he forgave Tanya Ellis.

Tanya did not answer right away. "Thank you," she said at last, "thank you very much for asking me, but I'm afraid I'm too out of practice to steer a fine boat like the *Jolly Canuck*. I have forgotten where the reefs lie. It's been 11 years, you know, and that's—that's a long time."

Two little Indian girls in long dresses, and with unkempt hair stared solemnly at Tanya.

Yes, it was a long time.

They fell silent again, for Joe seemed to stand between them. No matter what they said, it only seemed to arouse the memory of Joe, making them both feel constrained and awkward, for he was the one person neither of them wanted to discuss.

They reached Pelican River where the reeds grew thickly on either side of the open water in the center. A couple of geese roused by the noise of the engine, rose into the air honking their disapproval of the intrusion.

Tanya looked up at the cottage perched high on the river bank, boarded up and deserted.

"Do the Kinleys still own that cottage?" she asked.

"The Kinleys? No, they're both dead. Old man Kinley died years ago and the old lady

sold the cottage to a young couple who came here for their honeymoon, but they sold it the next summer. Are you married, Tanya?" he asked suddenly.

"No," she replied, "no, I am not married. I don't think I shall ever marry."

THE sun slipped behind a cloud making the water of the river look murky and cold and unfriendly. She shivered, suddenly aware of the solitude and loneliness about her.

McTavish wondered at her answer and was struck by an idea. Maybe she had been jilted and that was why she had come to hide at the Lodge. He almost laughed out loud when he thought of George's letter. As if he'd pity her for that. She had it coming to her and much more.

They said no more until they turned and headed for the little pier below the Lodge.

Tanya looked up at the sprawling log cabin on the bank.

"It looks just the same," she said in a pleased voice and smiled. "I'm so glad."

The shutters were open and the sun shone on the three big windows of the living room. It was warm here, warmer than it had been down by the lake.

McTavish cut the motor and they glided slowly toward the pier. He tied up. "Well, here we are. I cut you some wood yesterday, but it won't last long. You'll need a fire in the evenings as it gets mighty chilly this time of year. I'll be over again tomorrow and cut more."

"Oh don't bother about the wood, I'll manage."

McTavish picked up the box of provisions and climbed up the steep steps cut into the bank. She might as well have said, "I know you resent my being here, and I want no favors from you." It was pleasantly said, yes, but he was nettled. Well, he wasn't doing this for her anyway, but for George and her sister who had been his good friends for years.

The cabin was chilly and McTavish laid a fire in the huge stone fireplace as well as in the kitchen stove, then he carried in an armful of logs and placed them near the hearth. He brushed the bits of bark from his jacket and turned to face her.

"Well, I guess that's about all I can do for you now. I'll bring you some milk and eggs tomorrow. You're a bit thin, Tanya. You want to eat lots and sleep lots while you're here. Nothing like sleep to put weight on a person, you know."

Tanya was standing in front of the fireplace.

"That's thoughtful of you," she said, "but I have plenty to eat here. Evelyn packed every imaginable thing in those boxes and I'll have to stay for a month if I'm ever going to eat half of it. You really needn't bother to bring me anything."

McTavish shrugged. There it was again, the chip-on-the-shoulder (Please turn to page 52)



F/L Joseph Quincey



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FD42

A New Government on the Spot

Premier Bennett and his minority B.C. government face a difficult if not an impossible task and are proceeding cautiously

by CHAS. L. SHAW

A YEAR ago, W. A. C. Bennett, the enterprising Okanagan hardware man, could hardly have imagined that he would today be head of British Columbia's Social Credit government.

A year ago Mr. Bennett was a rank-and-file member of the legislature, a Conservative who didn't always get along with his leader, Herbert Anscomb, but nonetheless a Conservative and ready to go along with the party.

Mr. Bennett is an ambitious young man, however, with his own ideas of what is good for the province; and when he discovered that these ideas didn't jibe with those of the Conservative group as a whole, he lost no time in crossing the floor of the house and becoming an independent. That was early last spring, when coalition was still in office. When coalition broke up, Mr. Bennett continued his independence, which he shared with Mrs. Tilly Rolston, another rebel, who, like Mr. Bennett, quit the government over the many-sided issue of compulsory hospital insurance.

It was only when the Social Crediters started their invasion of the west coast province, infiltrating from neighboring Alberta, that Mr. Bennett began to make sidelong glances at the newcomers. In turn, as they gathered strength but lacked a leader, the Social Crediters began to regard Mr. Bennett as a prospective ally.

Although few of the so-called expert political observers discerned the trend until after the event, Mr. Bennett could see the Social Credit handwriting on the wall long before other members of the legislature. The more he studied the Social Credit doctrine, the more he became convinced that, leaving out the more extreme ideas of the late William Aberhart, the new party might be welded into a strong political force in British Columbia.

The Social Credit group became the receptacle for the vote of discontent with coalition and the old-line parties and for the votes of those who were unwilling to go the whole route to Socialism along with the C.C.F. As the recent election showed, this

vote was much larger than anyone had guessed; and while the Social Crediters barely elected more members than any other party and will have to lean heavily on the support of some opposition elements, they do comprise the government. Moreover, when Mr. Bennett stepped in as provincial leader of the group and was subsequently chosen as premier, no one was greatly surprised.

Premier Bennett, being naturally optimistic, is not at all discouraged by the magnitude of his problem. Being premier of British Columbia today is not the sinecure it used to be, if it ever was. Economic, political and industrial conditions are vastly more complicated than they were even when Byron I. Johnson, Bennett's immediate predecessor first took office. Mr. Bennett's government, in which Mrs. Tilly Rolston is the only member with previous legislative experience, took over from the defeated Johnson administration at a time when British Columbia's greatest industry was paralyzed by a strike, and when construction was similarly tied up throughout a wide section of the province by labor disagreement. The first mentioned dispute, affecting 32,000 forest industry workers, was settled finally—after running 45 days—at an estimated cost to the economy of the province of more than \$150 million.

These strikes were significant, because they demonstrated that as a group, industrial employers in British Columbia have reached the point where they feel able to stand pat against wage increases because their markets have reached a turning point. Even before the loggers finally went back to work, after receiving an increase of 5 cents compared with their request of 35 cents an hour, the salmon fishermen had called off their brief work stoppage, because it was evident that the canners, cut off for the first time from the British market, would rather shut their plants than pay more for fish.

In other words, Mr. Bennett and his Social Crediters are governing a region where the boom has at last



Farm water supply—old style.

[Photo: Nat. Film Board]

lost some of its impact. No longer is there a ready and eager, high-priced market for everything that B.C.'s major industries can produce, as there has been almost continuously since the war and up to early this year. The glitter is even off the pulp and paper industry, which, a few months ago, nothing seemed likely to slow.

This doesn't mean that the province is facing an inevitable period of recession after years of expansion. It probably does mean that a levelling-off period is due; and in such an atmosphere Premier Bennett and his associates are likely to face a more critical audience. Already he has been charged with dictatorship, through excessive use of the order-in-council technique.

MOST of the attack so far has been levelled against the Social Crediters by the C.C.F., which has 18 members to 19 Social Crediters in the new legislature and therefore continues as a strong influence in the province. The C.C.F. has promised to give the Socreds an uncomfortable time when the house meets, because it realizes that Mr. Bennett's cabinet is woefully lacking in political experience. Conscious of the fact that his political foes will find fault with anything and everything he does, Mr. Bennett, with his tenuous hold on government, is wisely following a middle-of-the-road policy, hesitating to take drastic action that might jeopardize his chances in the legislature.

For instance he might have preferred to remove the compulsory feature from hospital insurance, but if he had attempted such a move he would have faced defeat, through the combined opposition of the C.C.F. and the Liberals, who favor the compulsory principle. So he compromised, and while his compromise drew sharp blasts from his opponents, it was not sufficiently contrary to their policy to threaten an adverse vote.

A more generous attitude toward agriculture as a result of the Social Credit victory is hoped for by farmers throughout the province. Mr. Bennett himself is from the fruit-famous Okanagan Valley, and most of the Socred party were from the rural areas. The men who will be making the policies for the new government have had every opportunity to know the problems of the farmer. Ralph Chetwynd, the new minister of railways, has been close to the soil for many years, and for a long time he was manager of the Cariboo Cattleman's Association.

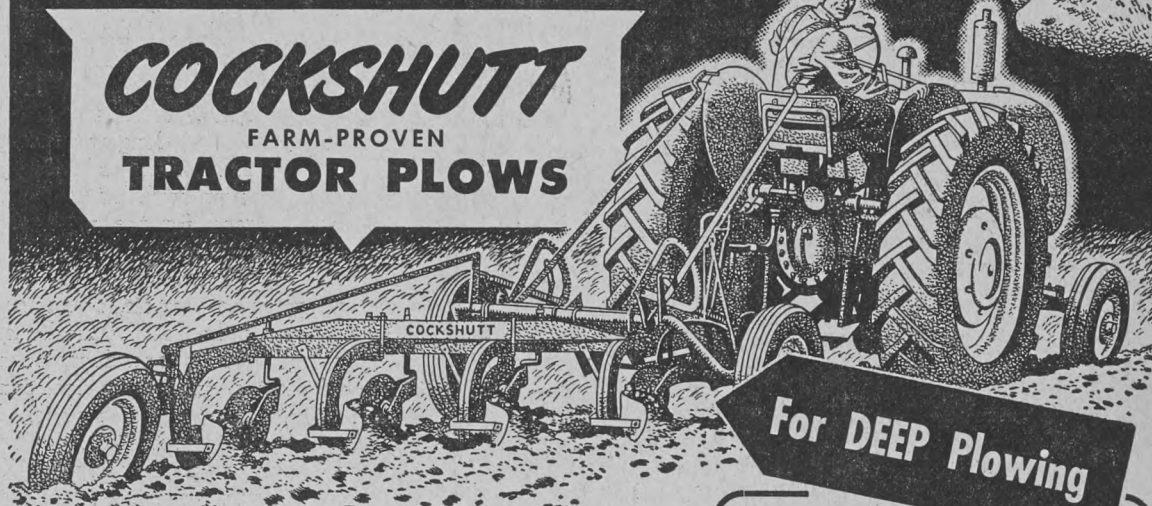
It is going to be a good year for B.C. agriculture, as far as production goes. The apple crop is bigger than last year's by about 1,600,000 bushels, according to one recent estimate. Soft fruits will also be in greater abundance. For most berry growers the season was a profitable one, with a big crop and good prices.

Even the vegetable packing industry was not free of strikes this year, labor turmoil being widespread throughout the province. But none of the stoppages were for long. At one cannery, a strike was hastily ended when the farmers crossed picket lines and proceeded to can their peas themselves.

The past summer offered plenty of good weather for strikes; on many days in August it seemed just too hot to work,

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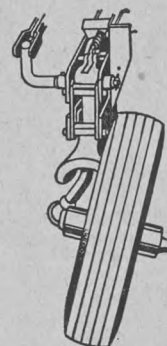
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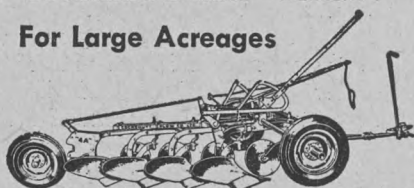


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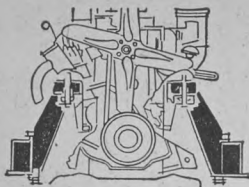
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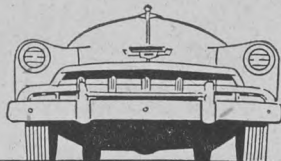
Chevrolet's Jumbo-Drum brakes, with their big 11-inch brake drums, apply more leverage for more stopping power. Stops are smoother, safer, with less driver effort. *Bonded* linings last up to twice as long.

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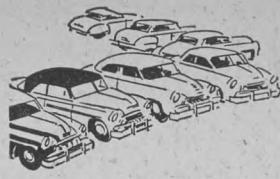
Teamed with Powerglide* is the powerful valve-in-head engine — an outstanding performer! This Powerglide engine's Hydraulic-Hushed valve lifters are another important Chevrolet exclusive. *(Powerglide automatic transmission available on De Luxe models at extra cost.)

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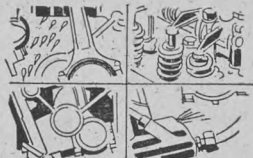
It's an oil-smooth, oil-cooled automatic transmission. It's simpler with fewer parts to wear or require adjustment. It's smoother because oil does it all without complicated intermediate gears. Optional on De Luxe models at extra cost.

**GORGEOUS NEW COLORS**

Choose from a wide array of rich beautiful new color ensembles — rich, fresh and sparkling. Distinctive new De Luxe interiors are color-matched to the exterior body colors for new color harmony inside and out.

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Control is centred between the front wheels instead of behind the left front wheel. This advanced steering geometry makes Chevrolet surprisingly easy to steer, manoeuvre and park.

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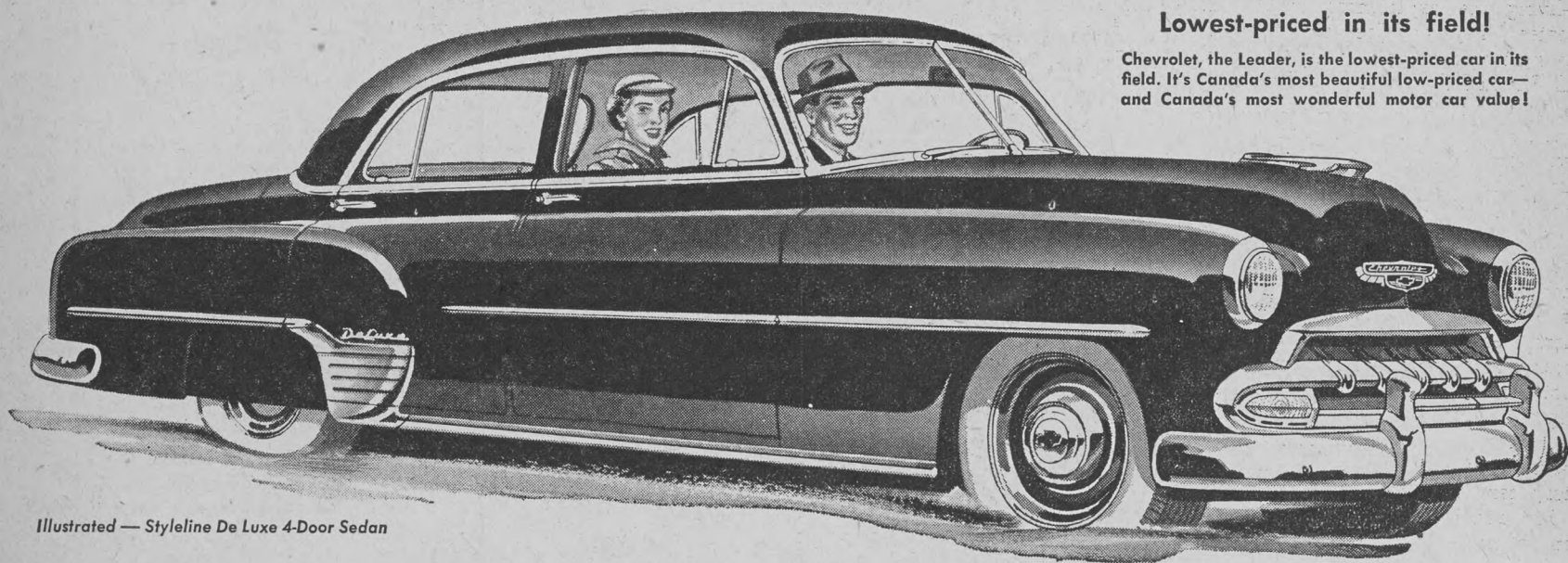
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Illustrated — Styleline De Luxe 4-Door Sedan

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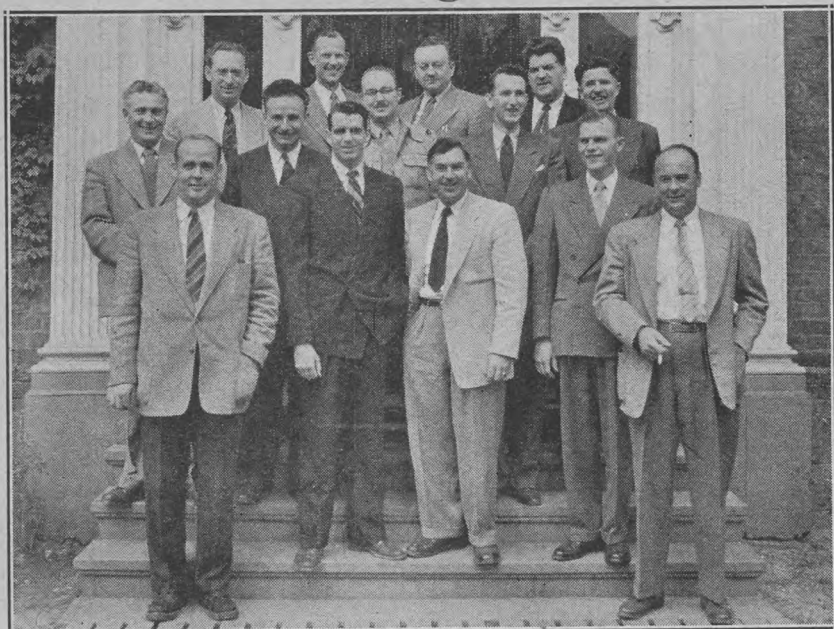
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News of Agriculture



Here are the CBC Farm Broadcasters, some of whom are known to Country Guide readers, including: Supervisor Keith Morrow (l., front); Bob Graham, Ass't Supervisor (r., front); Bob Knowles, Winnipeg (2nd row, 2nd l.); Al Richardson, Edmonton (2nd row, glasses); Lionel Moore, Winnipeg (2nd row, r.); Peter Whitall (top, r.), producer, "Summerfallow" and National Radio Farm Forum.

Ten A.I.C. Scholarships

OVER a period of eight years the Agricultural Institute of Canada has awarded a total of 86 scholarships to young Canadian agricultural scientists, for advanced training. These include ten scholarships worth \$1,000 each, announced recently by Dr. J. B. Harrington, University of Saskatchewan, president of the Institute.

Money for these scholarships is furnished by business organizations throughout Canada associated in one way or another with agriculture, including a number of farmers' co-operative organizations. The purpose of the scholarships is to assist worthy Canadians to secure further training in various fields of agricultural science. Many go to the United States, an occasional one to Britain, and the Institute notes with pride that of all those who have so far completed their studies, only four have failed to return to Canada.

Included among the ten who have been awarded scholarships this year are three from the University of Alberta: R. T. Berg, Millicent; B. J. Bowlen, Carstairs; and S. G. Fushtey, Wasel. They will study in Minnesota, Kansas and London, England. Two are graduates of the University of Saskatchewan: W. A. McGugan, Weyburn; and S. L. Medland, now of Vancouver, who will study in Wisconsin and Iowa, respectively. Two others are graduates of MacDonald College, Quebec, who will study at the University of Notre Dame and at McGill, while other graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College, Laval University and St. Francois Xavier University, will study at Michigan, Wisconsin and at McGill.

Of the ten, three will study in the field of soil physics, three in agricultural economics, and one each in animal genetics, entomology, plant pathology and dairy science.

F. and M. in Britain

WHILE Canada officially declared this country free of foot-and-mouth disease on August 19, the situation is altogether different in Britain and on the continent of Europe.

Up to August 9, Britain had had 555 outbreaks, involving compensation amounting to £2,618,213 for 74,592 animals slaughtered since November, 1951. Of these, about one out of seven were pigs, and the remainder about equally divided between cattle and sheep. By the end of July, the outbreaks had been lowered to about eight per week, and the Ministry of Agriculture permitted exhibitions of cloven-hoofed livestock at shows. Controlled area restrictions in England and Scotland were lifted so that livestock could circulate freely throughout the country, except in the remaining infected areas in Kent, Cumberland and Scotland.

Anthrax outbreaks in Britain in July numbered 90, as compared with 31 in June, and with 15 outbreaks in July, 1951.

The British Ministry of Agriculture has ordered an investigation into bird migration in relation to foot-and-mouth disease. Two official veterinarians have stated in a government pamphlet: "We conclude that available evidence is adequate to establish a prima facie case against birds and especially starlings on migration, as a means whereby foot-and-mouth disease is introduced into Britain; further, that the frequency of its introduction is dependent on the extent of the disease in certain coastal areas in the Low Countries and northeast France at the season of migration."

Farmer and Stockbreeder reports comparatively few outbreaks in Holland and Belgium since the beginning of June. France was an exception and, according to the latest available figures, there were nearly 61,500 fresh outbreaks in France in June, and more than 47,000 in the first half of July.

Soviet Agriculture

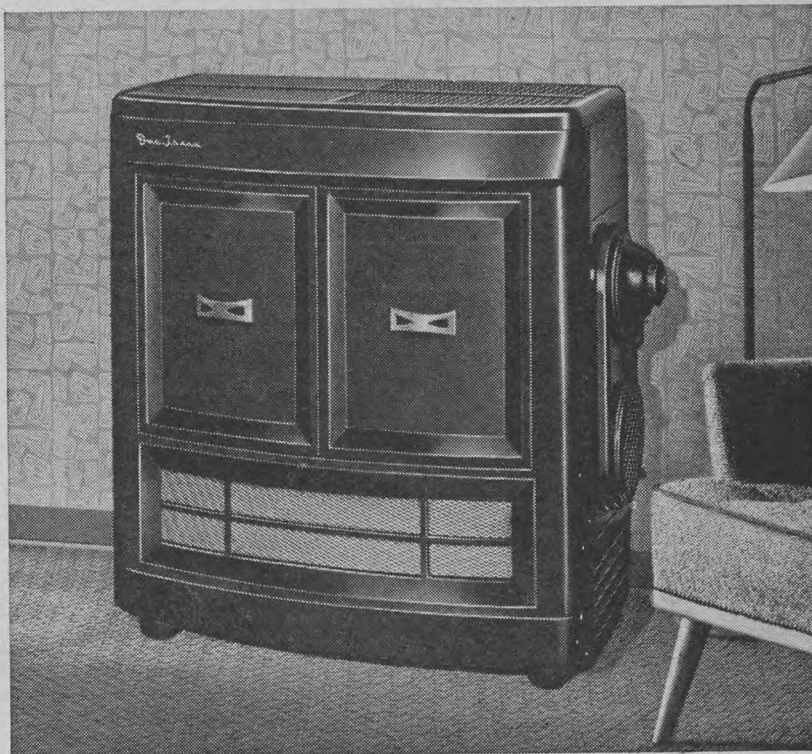
SOVIET RUSSIA has seven big power projects on the Volga, the Dnieper and the Don. About 25 per cent of the Soviet Union population, or about 50 million people, live in the Volga basin.

Aside from benefits which may accrue to Russian industry from this power development, those accruing to agriculture are perhaps more impos-



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Duo-Therm Silver Jubilee Oil Home Heater



The sensational Regency console that gives you "custom comfort"

It celebrates Duo-Therm's 25 years of building heater values—it gives you everything you've ever wanted in a home heater!

TWO burners! Use one burner in mild weather, use two in cold weather. Get exactly the amount of heat you want—a small roomfull or a big housefull—at the turn of a dial! Each burner independently controlled.

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Dramatic new styling! Looks like a fine hand-crafted television console. Modern, compact. Mahogany finish. Deluxe brass trim.

Add thermostat and blowers for "armchair" heating comfort! Enjoy fully automatic forced-air heating with thermostat control and Automatic Power-Air Blowers. (Optional at extra cost.)

• Double Waste Stoppers • Automatic Draft Minder • Built-in Humidifier

See it at your local Duo-Therm dealer's now.



More heat from every drop of oil with Duo-Therm's exclusive Dual Chamber Burners. Clean, quiet, thrifty... all the way from one burner on low to two on high. 78,000 BTU output—tremendous heating capacity!



Save up to 25% on fuel... add Duo-Therm's exclusive Automatic Power-Air Blowers to one or both sides. Turn on and off automatically, circulate heat by force to give you greater comfort throughout your home.

Complete line of Duo-Therm Oil Heaters for every heating need, from \$74.95 to \$219.95. Attachable fuel tank, extra. Duo-Therm heaters have been tested and approved by the CSA Approvals Laboratories. They're all Duo-Therm Silver Jubilee SUPER VALUES!

More than 2 million warmly satisfied customers in North America...

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Fall tillage is heavy work . . . a true test of tractor power. The versatile Ford Tractor provides *all* the power you need for heavy work, plus the nimble speed you want for light jobs. It's built to work more hours . . . save more hours . . . and increase your profits. The Ford Hydraulic System and three-point implement linkage give the Ford Tractor its outstanding power range. The weight and down-pull of mounted implements increase the traction at the Ford Tractor's rear wheels—the heavier the job, the greater the traction. In this way, the Ford Tractor provides all the additional pulling power required, without unnecessary tractor weight. More than one million Ford Tractors have proven their reliability and dependability under every working condition. Ford engineering skill combined with this vast field experience has made today's Ford Tractor the finest, most powerful and most dependable ever produced.

WORK IS EASIER, SAFER

When you operate a Ford Tractor, smooth positive Hydraulic Touch Control lightens your work. A finger touch lifts, lowers, and operates mounted Dearborn Implements. No more dangerous levers, no awkward ropes—you work safer, and finish fresher at the end of the day. And only the Ford Tractor has Implement Position Control, to automatically set and maintain desired working depth. You're sure of quality results with the Ford Tractor and Hydraulic Touch Control.

CORRECT OPERATION

Only the Ford Tractor has the Proof-Meter, a 5-in-1 instrument which shows at a glance tractor ground speed, engine speed, P.T.O. speed, belt pulley speed, and tractor hours worked. No more guesswork as to when to lubricate, service or adjust the vital parts of your Ford Tractor. You know you're right; when you operate on proof.



**See Your Ford Tractor Dealer —
Ask For a Demonstration**



Ford Farming
LESS WORK . . . MORE INCOME



ing. It is proposed to use a network of more than 2,800 miles of irrigation canals to bring water to drought-afflicted or desert lands in the Ukraine, the Crimea, as well as between the Volga and Ural rivers, in addition to other areas in Turkmenistan in Central Asia. From these canals, the total area to be supplied with water, according to Soviet estimates, will exceed 69 million acres. This compares with nearly 200 million acres brought under cultivation in a similar manner by the human race in the whole of recorded history. When these plans are completed, it has been estimated that 35 per cent of the world's irrigated lands, or an area about equal to the combined area of Britain, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Denmark, will be in the Soviet Union. Soviet economists claim that these lands will provide food, clothing and living facilities for more than 100 million people.

USSR also plans to reduce grain crops on the irrigated lands of Russia and the Ukraine from 75 to 40 per cent of the total, but to increase average yield to 39 bushels per acre, or double the present yield. It is also planned to double cotton production by putting an additional 3.5 million acres in Europe and Central Asia into this crop.

London Cowkeeper

UNTIL recently at least, David Carson was believed to be the sole remaining representative of the many cowkeepers or dairymen within the limits of the city of London, England. He has space for 36 cows, and his dairy is located in a warehouse and factory area a few hundred yards north of the London docks. This area, Stepney, was very badly treated in the blitz during World War II, and its population has been reduced from more than 200,000 to 72,000. Though the cowshed was damaged several times, no cows were lost.

Mr. Carson has been delivering milk for 50 years and is now assisted by his son, a qualified marine engineer. Five or six-year-old cows are bought in full milk flow, and sold off 12 or 18 months later. Naturally, all parts of the ration are purchased, including grain, mangolds, hay and molasses.

Communist Harvest

ALEXANDER KENDRICK, a U.S. reporter recently back from Vienna, Austria, is reported to have said with respect to the grain harvest behind the Iron Curtain:

"It's harvest time in central Europe, and this is probably the strangest Red harvest on record. It is being carried out literally under the loaded rifles of the security police of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Roumania.

"The Communist governments have sent armed squadrons into the villages to do two things: First, to make sure that the crops grown on the state farms are really gathered without sabotage; and, second, to make sure that the remaining private farmers really meet their quotas of grain deliveries to the state."

Anthrax in P.E.I.

EARLY in August, the Canada Department of Agriculture officially diagnosed as anthrax, a malady which killed three horses, possibly a cow, and made one farmer seriously ill in a Prince Edward Island community.

Three farms were placed under quarantine and the vaccination of susceptible animals proceeded with immediately.

The disease kills quickly, and can be fatal to human beings. It has been found in every province of Canada at various times, except Manitoba. A case developed in Saskatchewan in 1950. Prior to the outbreak in P.E.I., many outbreaks had occurred in the United States.

Anthrax is able to survive for years in the soil of certain areas where it exists in the spore stage. It can be spread by any flesh-eating animal or bird, as well as by flies, insects and infected animal products. The effect is a rapid and violent poisoning of the system, and animals may die from an acute form of the disease without any previous sign of illness.

The disease can be largely prevented by vaccination done in advance of the anthrax season.

Seed and the Atomic Age

AT the University of Alberta, small plots of barley are reported in the greenhouse which average six inches higher than other plots not treated. The faster-growing barley had been "shocked" into more rapid growth by supersonic waves or sound vibrations (at the rate of 800,000 per second) provided by an ultrasonic generator imported from Germany and of the kind used for deep massage treatment of human beings.

As yet, this method of stepping up growth has only research possibilities and little practical application, unless it could be applied to intensive production of greenhouse crops.

More Rice Needed

NEXT to wheat, rice is the most universally used food in the world. There is not enough of it. FAO has estimated that world rice acreage in the current crop year was ten per cent above prewar, but production was only up one per cent. This is largely because the increase in acreage developed principally in marginal areas in Asia; and it will take much capital and time to bring the average yields in these areas up to the standard of older producing regions.

FAO estimates that, due to the comparative shortage of rice, Asia is depending more and more on wheat and other grains. Indeed, imports of food grains other than rice into the Far East amounted to seven million tons during the past year, as compared with a rice trade within the same region of only 3.3 million tons.

Burma, Indo-China and Siam constitute the great rice bowl of south-east Asia. India and other deficit rice countries depended on this area for supplementary supplies. In 1952, however, supplies for export from this region are estimated by FAO to be less than four million tons, as compared with prewar average exports of about 5.8 million tons.

Netherlands Federation

THE Netherlands Federation of Agriculture, Stichting voor de Landbouw, was formed after the close of World War II. It is representative of six co-operative organizations, three of which are farmers' trading organizations, and three are trade unions of agricultural workers in The Netherlands.

The council of the Federation consists of four representatives of each farmers' organization and two representatives of each trade union. The council meets once each month to discuss the decisions of the executive committee which meets weekly on technical and economic matters. Employers have a casting vote, but on social questions each of the six groups in the Federation has two votes. The executive committee consists of one member from each of the six affiliated organizations, each having one vote.

The Federation is a general agricultural organization, and is not engaged in the marketing of produce. Agricultural co-operative organizations in The Netherlands are independent and are now united in a national co-operative board. This board works closely with the Federation, and three of its members are advisory members to the Council of the Federation, which has a total membership of 255,000, organized into regional and local branches.

Britain's Poor Farmers

BRITAIN is engaged in a very serious drive for increased food production, and is becoming dissatisfied with her less efficient farmers who, it is claimed, are making Britain's food problem more difficult to solve by their failure to step up production sufficiently.

Stanley N. Evans, Labor Member and former Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, has been seriously criticizing the size of farm subsidies and accusing the government of feather-bedding the nation's agricultural industry. Whereas agricultural income had increased since 1948 from £60 million to £290 million per year, production had only risen by 40 per cent. He claimed that giving the farmer more money is like drinking sea water to quench a thirst, when, of Britain's farm population, 20 per cent are the best in the world, 60 per cent were guilty of dull mediocrity, while the remaining 20 per cent were the world's worst. He is quoted as saying: "The farmers not only have a feather bed: they are tucked up in it every year." He recently quoted government reports to prove his statement that last year's wheat yields were down 12 per cent; rye, 25 per cent; oats, 16 per cent; potatoes, by 150,000 tons; mutton and lamb, by 8,000 tons; while during the same period the British housewife had 261 million fewer eggs to use and the British dairy industry had only supplied 6,000 out of a butter requirement of 265,000 tons. Notwithstanding these decreases, he argued that farmers had enjoyed a substantial increase in profits.

U.S. Drought

THE states of Maine, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and parts of Arkansas and Missouri, have been designated disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Varying degrees of drought damage are also reported from North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Kansas, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Drought losses as a result of unfavorable weather in the southern and eastern United States may surpass \$1 billion; \$600 million has been estimated as the loss in four of the hardest-hit southern states.



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Marfak resists jar-out and squeeze-out, keeps on protecting in spite of dusty, bumpy roads. It also gives longer lasting protection against "washing action" of road water. Enjoy "cushiony" driving today! For *Marfak* lubrication, see your McColl-Frontenac Dealer, the best friend your car ever had.

Custom-Made Havoline does two big farm jobs!



It's right for your Diesel engines, right for gasoline engines, too. That's because Havoline *exceeds* Heavy Duty requirements. New car engines have closer clearances requiring Heavy Duty motor oil. And in any engine, Havoline delivers more power, better gasoline mileage, longer engine life, with fewer repairs.

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Only the best fibres are used to make Brantford Maple Leaf Baler twine. These are spun into high quality twine that will tie without breakage or difficulty in any properly adjusted baler. Brantford Maple Leaf Baler Twine is guaranteed to give satisfaction whether you're baling hay or straw. It is backed by fifty years' experience in manufacturing harvest twines.

*Recommended for use in all automatic pick-up balers including:

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- Extra tensile strength
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symbol of satisfaction in Baler twine.

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Get It at a Glance

*Farm items from many countries
and across Canada of interest to you*

THE preliminary cutworm forecast for 1953, announced in August, indicates that infestations are likely to occur throughout the prairie region next year, in the area running between Warner, Gleichen, Drumheller and Castor, Alberta, on the west, and Humboldt, Regina and Radville, Saskatchewan, on the east. The northern line runs from Castor to Humboldt through Provost, Alberta, and Wilkie, Saskatchewan.

IN England and Wales, 49 per cent of the agricultural land is rented; 36 is owned by the operator; and 15 per cent partly owned and partly rented.

THE Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada reports that a dispersal sale of 35 head of Holsteins held the same evening that Canada was declared free of foot-and-mouth disease, averaged \$453, which compared with an average of \$277 for a consignment sale of purebred Holsteins held on August 13 at the same place.

RECENTLY, 200 live pigs were flown from Des Moines, Iowa, to Korea for the United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency. The flight took about 40 hours, and only one pig was lost.

FARMERS whose crops are liable to damage from waterfowl will be issued a new type of permit under the Canadian Migratory Bird Regulations. The permit will authorize them to use firearms to scare waterfowl from fields, but will not authorize killing birds. During the balance of 1952, however, permits to kill birds causing serious damage will still be issued on application. After January 1, 1953, permits to kill waterfowl will not be issued until scaring methods have proved ineffective.

THE First International Weed Control Conference to be held in Canada will take place in Winnipeg, December 9-11. This will be the sixth annual conference to be held in western Canada, but will comprise this year a joint meeting of the North-Central United States and the Western Canada Weed Control Conferences.

THE Jamaica Department of Agriculture has developed a new breed of dairy cattle, officially named Jamaica-hope. The breed has taken 40 years to develop, and is said to possess heat tolerance, fertility, docility, longevity and high quality in milk production.

A CROP of O.A.C. No. 21 barley weighing 53 pounds per bushel and yielding 76.6 bushels per measured acre is reported from Creston, B.C., grown by R. B. Staple. This crop was the first to be harvested from 17,000 acres of reclaimed land on the Kootenay Flats.

BRITAIN has a working population of 22,578,500. Of these, 4,210,100 work in agriculture, horticulture and forestry. Of the 316,800 farmers and farm managers, 20,000 were women, and only 52,800 were men under 35 years of age.

SASKATCHEWAN was shown by the 1951 census to have a larger investment in farm machinery than any other province. Of nearly \$2 billion invested for all Canada, the Saskatchewan figure was \$525.6 million; Ontario, \$445.3 million; Alberta, \$390 million; and Manitoba, \$231.8 million. About \$1.1 billion, or 59 per cent of the total, was found in the prairie provinces.

THE Canadian index number of farm prices of agricultural products dropped more than ten per cent between June, 1951, and June, 1952, the decrease being from an index figure of 300.7 to 263.7 this year. The prairie provinces, Ontario and Quebec, all showed decreases, but the Maritime provinces and British Columbia showed substantial increases.

MECHANIZATION in Sweden is credited with having made possible a ten per cent increase in farm production, notwithstanding a decrease of 23 per cent in the number of farm workers.

AN experiment by the Bread Research Institute of Australia, in which bread was baked in tins and stored for 11 months, indicated that when opened the bread was still well crusted and tasty, though slightly drier than ordinary bread. The experiments will continue, in the hope of substituting tinned bread for hard biscuits now supplied troops during wartime.

UNTIL the end of December this year, Ontario cheese producers have been guaranteed a minimum price of 30 cents per pound on all first-grade cheese made during the six-month period after June 30. Twenty-four cents of this is a federal government guarantee, and six cents a supplementary Ontario government guarantee.

EIGHTY-FIVE per cent of the area of Prince Edward Island is under cultivation. The agricultural economy of the province is built on dairying, potatoes, and hog and poultry raising. Its history goes back to 1534.

THE president of the South Africa Agricultural Union has complained that too little money is being invested in agriculture, though much is invested in new gold fields and in manufacturing. Better farming methods are not being adopted rapidly enough.

DROUGHT in the livestock areas of South Africa has forced cattle and sheep to market, and created a temporary glut, despite the fact that South Africa is not self-sufficient in beef and mutton.

CANADA'S population on June 1, 1952, was estimated at 14,430,000 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The western provinces, in order of population, were British Columbia, 1,198,000; Alberta, 970,000; Saskatchewan, 843,000; and Manitoba, 798,000. The population of Ontario, at 4,776,000, exceeds the combined population of the four western provinces.

44,986 HEATING PROBLEMS SOLVED!

AT AN AMAZING SAVING IN MONEY

WITH THE NEW AND IMPROVED **BOOKER** TRADE MARK REG'D **SEMI-AUTOMATIC SELF-FEED HEATERS AND FURNACES**

Yes! Clean controlled warmth pours from thousands of Bookers in Western Canada, heating the average size home for only 39 cents a day. This amazing saving is possible because only Booker is designed to burn the cheapest soft Western coals.

Why waste money? Booker can save you half the cost of other coal units and two thirds the cost of heating with oil. Join the thousands of satisfied Booker users — and learn what Booker heat can mean to you in comfort, convenience and dollars saved.

Exclusive BOOKER Features

- Burns the cheapest western coal
- Automatic 'round the clock heat
- Light your fire just once a year — average two fillings per day
- Holds Fire for many days—NEVER GOES OUT
- Finger-tip control for fast heat
- Has no moving parts to go wrong — no shear pins, no motors
- Burns the smoke for clean heat, free from dust and dirt. No clinkers, little ash
- All cast iron, built for heavy duty
- Safest burner on the market — always under control
- Booker units can be fitted with electric or non-electric (Bookerstat) controls

Prices listed are delivered to your station.

YOU TOO CAN SAVE UP TO \$100. PER SEASON ON YOUR HEATING BILLS

ONE OF THESE BOOKER MODELS IS THE ANSWER TO YOUR HEATING PROBLEMS



Man. - \$82.95
Sask. - \$87.95
Alta. - \$89.95
Peace River Dist. - \$94.50

No. 1 BOOKER HEATER

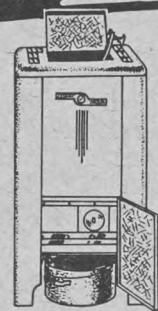
The most popular house size model. Ideal in the small home because it gives steady, even heat — keeps floors warm. Small in size but a giant in performance. Bright metal trim. Capacity 3-6 rooms, up to 5,500 cu. ft.



Man. - \$125.95
Sask. - \$133.95
Alta. - \$136.95
Peace River Dist. - \$143.50

No. 2 BOOKER HEATER

The standard commercial size model designed to supply safe, economical heat in larger buildings, schools, garages, stores, large homes. Two removable grates of extra heavy material. All cast combustion chamber, fire box. All black finish. Capacity 5-8 rooms, 14,000 cu. ft.



No. 1
Man. - \$118.90
Sask. - \$124.70
Alta. - \$126.90
Peace River Dist. - \$132.45

No. 2
Man. - \$170.20
Sask. - \$179.45
Alta. - \$183.20
Peace River Dist. - \$190.75

BOOKER DELUXE CABINET MODEL

You'll be proud to have this furniture styled beauty in your home! Enclosed in a handsome heavy prime steel baked walnut enamel cabinet. Resists scuffs and scratches. Heat resistant. Cabinet has extensive louvers for heat radiation — designed to throw heat downwards. Keeps floors warm. Two sizes: No. 1 Cabinet Model, capacity 5,500 cu. ft.; No. 2 Cabinet Model, capacity 14,000 cu. ft. NOTE: CABINET MAY BE BOUGHT ALONE (price on request)



No. 1
Man. - \$182.50
Sask. - \$189.95
Alta. - \$195.50
Peace River Dist. - \$199.95

No. 2
Man. - \$229.50
Sask. - \$239.95
Alta. - \$247.50
Peace River Dist. - \$257.75

BOOKER PIPELESS FURNACE

Important where space is limited. Easily installed — a compact unit which leaves your basement free of pipes. A complete home heating system. Height adjustable to 8 ft. Cast iron register included, ready to install. Two sizes: No. 1 Pipeless Furnace, capacity 3-4 rooms, 4,100 cu. ft.; No. 2 Pipeless Furnace, capacity 4-7 rooms, up to 14,000 cu. ft.

BOOKER RESEARCH BRINGS ADDED COMFORT... CONVENIENCE

BOOKER ELECTRIC CONTROLS



Plug in style, no special wiring required. Inexpensive. No more time-consuming trips to the basement — now enjoy automatic control for the draft and dampers of your furnace. Comes complete ready to install.

\$33.00
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BOOKERSTAT NON-ELECTRIC CONTROL



Set it! Forget it! Personalized heat control with the new revolutionary Bookerstat. No electricity required. Fits any Booker Model. Compact, easy to install. Set adjustable chain for your heating needs, and Bookerstat helps maintain even heat around the clock.

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EXTRA LARGE BOOKER HOPPER



This hopper gives you 24 hours coal supply, in the coldest weather, at a single filling. Increases No. 2 Booker capacity from 115 lbs. to 210 lbs. of coal. Fits any No. 2 Booker unit. Available at small extra cost.

PRICES ON REQUEST

THE ONLY HEATING UNIT DESIGNED TO REALLY BURN CHEAPEST SOFT WESTERN COALS



Man. - \$328.95
Sask. - \$338.50
Alta. - \$342.50
Peace River Dist. - \$352.95

BOOKER FORCED AIR UNIT

Winter air conditioning? Now enjoy the comfort of good clean filtered heat circulated to every room. Cools house in summer. Combines forced air with gravity stoker action. Beautiful green finish. Unit includes furnace, heat chamber, casing, humidifier, fan, filters, and fan control (inset shows fan assembly). Capacity 4-8 rooms, up to 15,000 cu. ft.

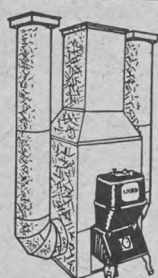
NOTE: All Booker models can easily go through the smallest door. Larger units come knocked down ready for installation.



Man. - \$132.50
Sask. - \$137.50
Alta. - \$141.50
Peace River Dist. - \$145.95

BOOKER JUNIOR MODEL FURNACE

Small home? Small basement? No worry — this unit will go into the smallest basement or dugout — will fit space 4 1/2' high, 2' wide, 3' deep. Easy to install. Complete with heavy steel heat exchanger, cast iron combustion chamber, gravity stoker, modern casing. Capacity 3-5 rooms, 4,500 cu. ft.



No. 1
Man. - \$169.95
Sask. - \$179.50
Alta. - \$182.50
Peace River Dist. - \$189.95

No. 2
Man. - \$225.50
Sask. - \$233.75
Alta. - \$242.50
Peace River Dist. - \$249.95

BOOKER SEMI-PIPELESS FURNACE

The Triplex Three Pipe System that does away with expensive installation! These models are sweeping western Canada because there are no extras to buy! Easily installed by anyone. Complete with Booker heat exchanger, pipes, boxes, elbows and three registers. Height adjustable to 8 ft. Two sizes: No. 1 Semi-Pipeless Furnace, capacity 3-5 rooms, 4,300 cu. ft.; No. 2 Semi-Pipeless Furnace, capacity 4-8 rooms, up to 15,000 cu. ft.



Man. - \$187.95
Sask. - \$198.50
Alta. - \$205.50
Peace River Dist. - \$212.50

No. 2 BOOKER STANDARD FURNACE

The most popular Booker Pipe Furnace for the average home. Semi-Automatic — no moving parts to wear out. Two removable extra heavy grates. Combustion Chamber and Firebox, all good grey cast iron. Includes furnace, circulating chamber, casing, humidifier, manual draft controls. Capacity 4-8 rooms, 14,000 cu. ft.

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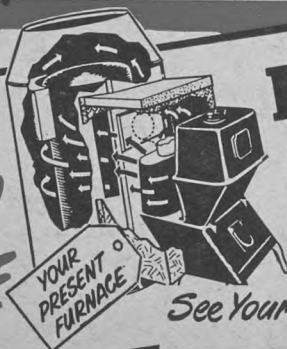
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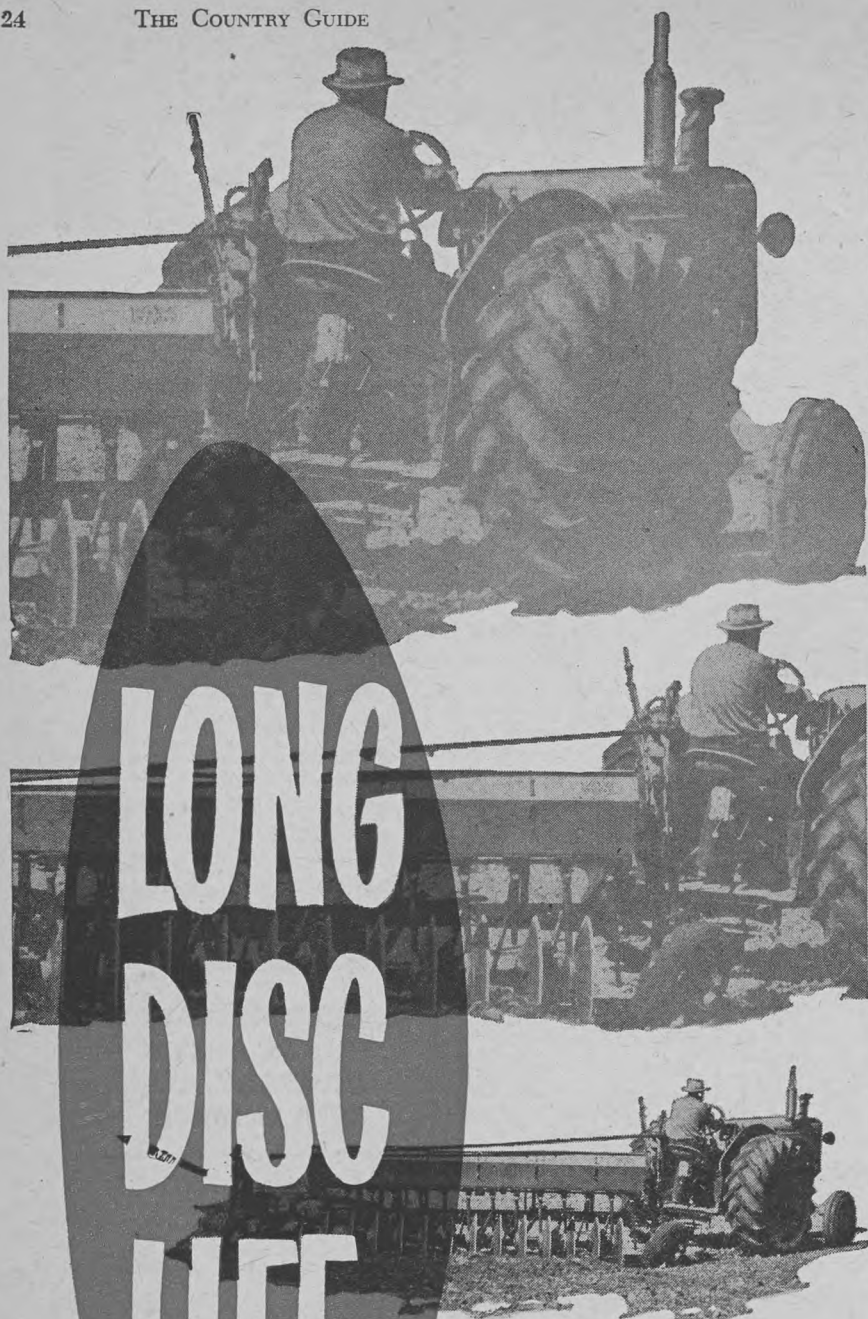
The new adaptor model of the famous Booker line. Fits into your present hot air furnace, quickly... easily... cheaply, and converts it into a semi-automatic stoker unit, with all the advantages of Booker heat. It gives you two heating chambers, and a flame that goes direct to the dome of your furnace — fast abundant heat, a flick of a finger! Easily installed. Compact, only 24 in. required in front of your furnace. Capacity 4-8 rooms, 15,000 cu. ft.

Man. - \$144.75
Sask. - \$149.75
Alta. - \$154.50
Peace River Dist. - \$158.50

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LIFE**

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is 75% OF THE VALUE of a harrow or plow to me


You have heard your neighbors say it . . . you've probably said it yourself. Long disc life is important in the value you get from a disc harrow or plow.

And the most important factor in a disc is quality steel.

The quality steel which we use in the manufacture of LaBelle discs is made in our own mills by skilled steel craftsmen. Many of our people, their sons and grandsons, have been continuously employed in the

manufacture of LaBelle discs for three generations. It is their skill and patience plus everlasting control and testing of every manufacturing step that results in fine steel . . . in extra disc life.

This extra life offered by LaBelle discs means extra value for a LaBelle equipped disc harrow or plow. LaBelle discs are available for every disc harrow or plow ever made.

Look for the triangular trade mark  of LaBelle.

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first name in special purpose steels

52 years of *Fine* steelmaking

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CRUCIBLE STEEL COMPANY OF AMERICA, GENERAL SALES OFFICES, OLIVER BUILDING, PITTSBURGH, PA.
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LIVESTOCK



With livestock under price support, a waiting period imposed by U.S. embargo, and cattle and hog numbers growing, sheep promise to be relatively profitable.

Beef Cattle and Hogs

CANADA, as had been forecast two or three weeks earlier, was declared free of foot-and-mouth disease on August 19. Not only were all of the restrictions lifted with respect to the quarantine and buffer zones immediately associated with the infected area, but embargoes imposed by the provinces — British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec — were lifted. The one exception was the ban set by the United States. That ban still remains, as we knew it would and must remain, for a minimum period of 60 days after Canada was declared officially free of the disease. How much longer it will remain after October 19 is anybody's guess, but in the year of a presidential election there is little reason to expect its early removal.

We are fortunate, as far as foot-and-mouth disease is concerned, that our experience with it has been short and sharp. Aside from the disease itself, the situation is by no means rosy, and its economic effects have extended to every farm in Canada. Not only the many thousands of beef cattle which would normally have found a market in the United States have been excluded, but a very large number of dairy animals, both grade and purebred, which find their way annually to the milksheds of the eastern states, are and must remain in Canada until the U.S. ban is lifted.

Elsewhere in this issue is to be found a survey of the livestock situation by L. W. Pearsall, director of Marketing Service, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, who has dealt in some detail with the cattle and hog situation, as at the end of June. By early August, more than 45 million pounds of the 60 million Canada-U.K.-New Zealand meat deal had been definitely exhausted. Early in August, the Minister of Agriculture announced that the existing floor price for cattle would be continued to the end of September, and that in any event a floor price would continue for the duration of the U.S. embargo. Meanwhile, the 3.5 million pounds of beef received weekly by the Agricultural Prices Support Board had dropped to 750,000 pounds weekly during the latter part of July, and both federal and provincial departments of agriculture were urging farmers to hold cattle on farms for further finishing, to the greatest extent practicable. The outlet for stocker and feeder

cattle has been limited by uncertainty.

The hog situation created by the U.S. embargo is less easily managed. The government has been accumulating large quantities of canned pork which, failing any export outlet, was released to the domestic market at reduced prices. With substantial increases in hog marketings and further heavy marketings in prospect, the loss of the British and U.S. markets has created an unprecedented situation which only time can solve.

Meanwhile, on January 1 of this year, the United States had more than 88 million head of cattle on farms, which constituted a record number, exceeding the 85.5 million head on January 1, 1945. Beef cows, two years and over, numbered 20.6 million, and heifers under three years numbered 5.8 million, or nearly five million more breeding females than seven years ago. The bureau of Agricultural Economics in Washington reported 13 per cent more cattle on feed in the 11 corn belt states, on July 1 this year, than a year ago, and in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, the number was 16 per cent greater.

Aside from actual numbers, the Michigan State Agricultural College believes that on balance the factors encouraging beef production in the United States outweigh the discouraging factors. Notwithstanding the record beef cattle population, the larger beef supply this year, higher production costs, lower hide and tallow prices, and lower slaughter cattle prices compared with feed prices, the Michigan farm economists feel that these are more than offset by lower feeder cattle prices, a smaller supply of pork than a year ago, heavier government expenditures for defence, continued high consumer take-home pay, and a strong demand for beef.

United States prices received by farmers for livestock and livestock products were eight per cent lower in the April-June quarter of this year than in the third quarter last year. This fall, a larger slaughter of cattle but a smaller slaughter of hogs is expected; and the B.A.E. says that "because of mounting numbers of cattle on farms, cattle slaughter is beginning a general uptrend that is likely to continue for several years," though "if the large corn crop indicated on July 1 is realized, demand for feeder cattle will absorb part of the extra marketings." Inter-state hog marketings will also be affected by

embargoes due to the appearance of vesicular exanthema. Some states prohibit movement of both hogs and pork, and a Federal embargo, covering several areas, permits hogs to move out of quarantine areas only under permit and directly to slaughter. "These embargoes," says the Bureau, "prevent the customary regional patterns of marketing and of prices."

There is therefore no ready answer to the present problems of Canadian producers of cattle and hogs. The situation will not be stabilized in any sense until a resumption of general trading is permitted by the raising of the U.S. embargo.

Clip Cows to Control Lice

DAIRY production specialists at the University of Wisconsin have come up with a recommendation that dairy cows should be clipped twice a year to control chewing lice. Many farmers have regularly practiced clipping the flanks and udders of cows to lower the bacteria count of milk. Some have also clipped the entire bodies of their cows to make the cows more comfortable; and a few have claimed that in warm stanchion barns the cows so clipped had fewer lice.

Two groups of cows were put on experiment in Wisconsin, one clipped and the other not. The second year the groups were reversed, but in each year the clipped cows gave slightly more milk. In each case, also, the unclipped heifers were badly infested by early February, while those clipped in the fall did not become badly infested until late March. If the heifers were clipped or re-clipped in February, they remained louse-free for the rest of the season. Consequently, the recommendation is to clip in late fall, and again in late winter.

In these tests, no insecticides were used. Furthermore, even in the coldest weather during the Wisconsin winter, clipping appeared to cause no discomfort. Winter cold, however, in the region of the University at Madison, seldom goes lower than 20 degrees below.

Range Livestock Numbers

THE year 1951 was a wet season in southern Alberta, with the result that there was grass for many more cattle than were available to eat it. This fact, and its opposite—a year of short grass—represents one of the difficult problems which all ranches and, for that matter, all cattle and sheep owners, who rely largely on pasture, have to solve.

A year or two ago, the Range Experiment Station at Manyberries called attention to this problem by a series of figures representing the annual grass production on a series of plots. On the short grass range at Manyberries, these plots were clipped every year in the fall, and included a wide variety of grass species. The problem is complicated by the fact that under good range management careful studies have shown that only 55 per cent of the current year's grass growth should be grazed, the remainder being carried over from the fall, to maintain a healthy stand. Based on the fact that one mature cow consumes approximately 24 pounds of air-dry forage per day, and that a seven-month grazing period is considered to be the standard, the following comparisons indicate the extent of the problem.

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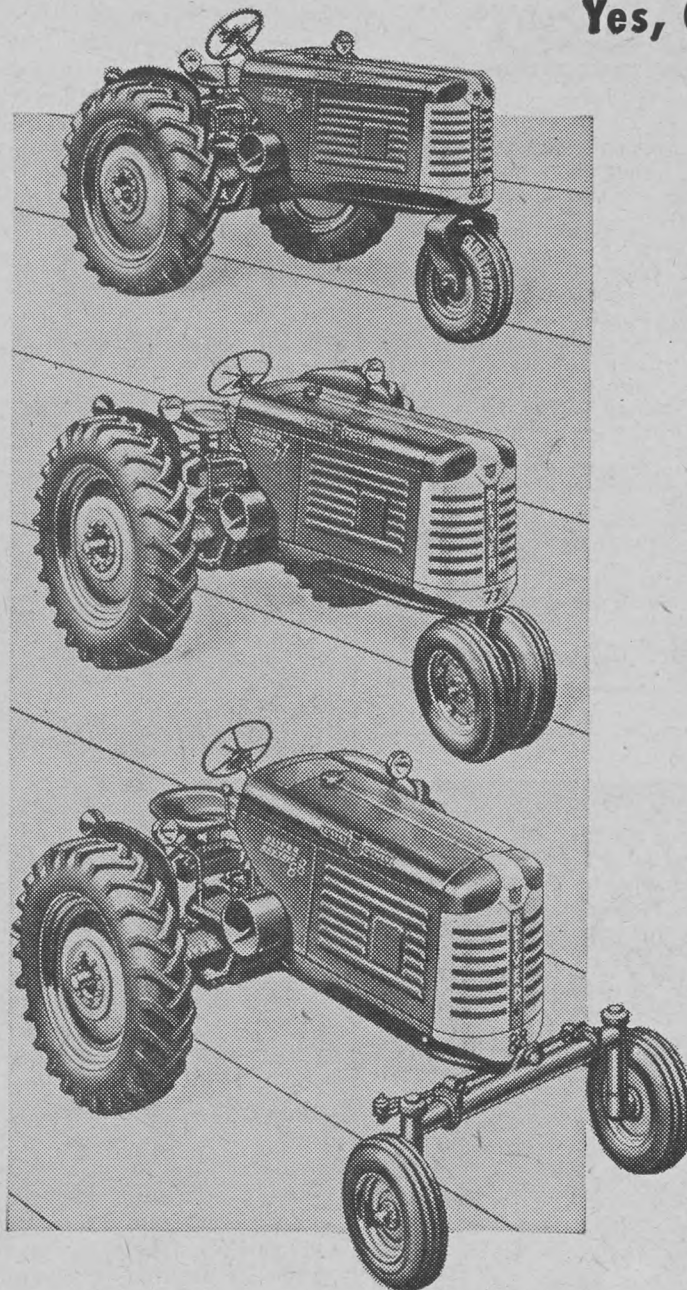
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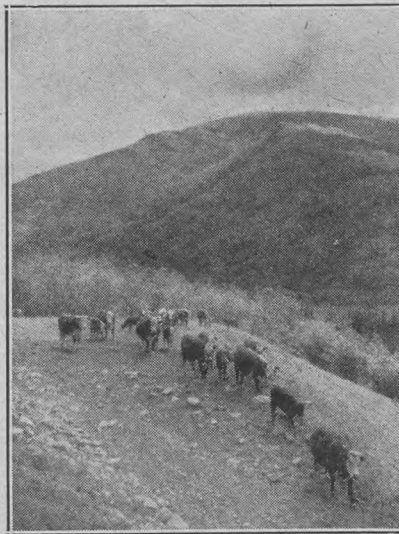
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In 1936 the driest year on record was experienced, when only 130 pounds per acre were produced, 55 per cent of which provided only three days of grazing per acre; or in other words, necessitated the provision of 70 acres of grazing land per head. On the other hand, 1942, the wettest year on record up to 1950, produced 748 pounds of actual grass per acre, or 411 pounds on the 55 per cent basis, which was sufficient to maintain a mature cattle beast on 12 acres, instead of 70 acres six years before. During the 14-year period 1930-43, the average of grass production was 302 pounds which, on the same basis of 55 per cent grazed, was enough to support one head on 30 acres. The station concluded, after examining these figures, that the accepted rate of 4.7 acres per cow-month, or 56 acres per year, "will maintain the productivity of short grass range over the longtime period."



In the Foothills country.

Feeding Young Pigs

MUCH of the profit in raising pigs is often lost because of three defects in management. First is the failure to bring the sow to farrowing in good condition. Second is the lack of sufficient care to prevent excessive losses of young pigs between birth and weaning. Third is poor feeding.

Experience at the Experimental Station at Scott, Saskatchewan, indicates that feeding the sow three times per day while nursing, induces her to take more feed, and gives better results than feeding twice daily. Many pig-owners now start young pigs on a dry pig starter. Whether a commercial starter is used, or not, is perhaps a matter of choice; and the Station suggests that if a commercial starter is not used, a substitute preparation may be home-mixed from equal parts by weight of sifted oat chop, shorts and ground barley or wheat, with ten to 15 per cent of tankage for each pound of grain.

The starter should be available to the young pigs at one to two weeks of age, and should be given in a small trough out of the sow's reach. In any case, a separate trough containing milk or water is needed. As pigs develop they may find the sow's milk not sufficient to satisfy their hunger or thirst. Clean water is important, if milk is not available, especially when the pigs are eating dry starter or chop. Plenty of water or liquid avoids a gradual loss of flesh which is hard to regain.

If the dam is thin six weeks after farrowing, it may mean that the little



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pigs would do better if weaned then than at eight weeks, especially if they are eating plenty of solid food. Young pigs often lose weight for some time after weaning, if they have had no solid food except what is provided for the sow. This does not contain sufficient protein for the small pigs; and sometimes contains sharp oat hulls, which may be harmful at that age.

When weaned, milk or water should always be available, and a change made in a week or two from pig starter to two pounds of ground barley to each pound of oats, say the Scott authorities, supplemented with an equal rate of milk, a pig concentrate, or five per cent tankage. Don't grind the grain too fine.

A.I. Progress

SUBSTANTIAL progress in the field of artificial insemination of livestock was recently reported by British scientists, at an international congress in Denmark. Research workers at the Cambridge University Artificial Insemination Center, working with researchers of the Medical Research Council in Britain, have been able to store bull semen for as long as 12 weeks, after which effective pregnancies were secured. This important advance means that it is now possible to use outstanding sires for breeding with greater efficiency, by "nominating" in advance outstanding cows to be bred to him artificially. It also means that it would be possible to inseminate cows with the semen of an outstanding sire, two or three months after his death.

This advance in technique was achieved by freezing the semen to the temperature of dry ice (-79 degrees C.) and using a mixture of glycerol and egg-yolk to protect the sperm cells from the salts which develop around them when the semen is frozen.

Artificial insemination is rapidly proving to be of outstanding value in areas where there is considerable concentration of cattle population. In North Dakota, for example, there are now 22 A.I. associations, involving more than 4,000 dairy herds and over 28,000 cows.

"To get an idea of what this increased production means to North Dakota farmers in breeding associations," says the N.D. Extension Service, "assume that one-half of the 27,778 cows bred artificially in the state during the past five years, produce heifer calves. If 80 per cent of these heifers come into production, and each produces 35 pounds more than her dam, nearly 400,000 pounds more butterfat will be obtained. The market value of this extra butterfat provides a sizable addition to dairy income in the state."

Beef Carcass Grading

A STATISTICAL system of grading beef carcasses has been evolved by Dr. N. T. M. Yeates, a research officer of the Commonwealth Scientific Research Organization, working in an abattoir of the Queensland Meat Industry Board, Australia.

It is reported that this measurement system is sufficiently accurate so that it can be used for all ages and types of cattle, and has a margin of human judgment so small that it can be adapted for judging carcass competitions. Based on conformation, finish

and quality, it utilizes measurements and ratios respecting the leg, round, thigh, loin, eye muscle, and the area from shoulder to rump, to judge of conformation. Quality is similarly arrived at on the basis of fat color, firmness, distribution (marbling) and the color of the muscle tissue. Finish is judged by estimating completeness of fat covering on each of eight regions, the total score yielding a percentage estimate of overall cover.

An interesting fleshing index is arrived at by comparing body length with hot dressed weight. The average of 80 Shorthorn and Hereford steers showed these ratios between length and weight, the first figure indicating length in centimeters, and the second figure in each case the weight in pounds: 125 - 500; 130 - 585; 135 - 670; 140 - 755; 145 - 840; 150 - 930; 155 - 1,015; 160 - 1,100.

The statistical method was evolved in Australia, to compare the reaction of different breeds to the same environment, or the reaction of cattle within the same breed to different environments. Generally, first-grade carcasses were heavier than the average length-weight ratio, and second-grade carcasses were lighter.

Swine Erysipelas

A SURVEY by the Alberta Department of Agriculture among veterinarians has revealed that erysipelas, pneumonia, nutritional deficiencies and enteritis are the four most common hog diseases in the province. Of these, swine erysipelas is quite widespread from the Peace River block to the southern boundary of the province. Last year, veterinarians were called on to treat swine for erysipelas on 500 farms, and of these instances, 46 per cent were acute, 35 per cent chronic, and 19 per cent of the diamond skin form.

Hogs two to six months of age are most commonly affected, according to Dr. E. E. Ballantyne, director of veterinary services. The disease may occur at any age, and on some farms only sows were affected. Erysipelas seems to be on the increase, and in 1950 the Alberta Veterinary Laboratory diagnosed 14 cases, and in the first ten months of 1951 there were 24 cases diagnosed from specimens examined. The worst seasons are summer, fall, spring and winter, in this order. Treatment with the new drugs can be quite successful, but early treatment is essential.

Creep Feeding Piglets

AT the Brandon Experimental Farm, creep feeding has been practiced for many years with suckling pigs. The feed used is made up of 27 parts of sifted oat chop, 27 parts sifted barley chop, 26 parts wheat chop, and 20 parts protein supplement.

Creep feeding is said to prevent an excessive drain on the sow, help bring about a uniformity in the litter, lower the mortality among little pigs, and contribute toward continued rapid growth of the litter. A creep is easily provided by partitioning off one corner of the pen, so that only small pigs may enter it, and where they can be given supplemental feeding in a trough or a self-feeder. The time to begin creep feeding, say the Brandon officials, is at about three weeks of age, when the small pigs begin to eat some solid food.

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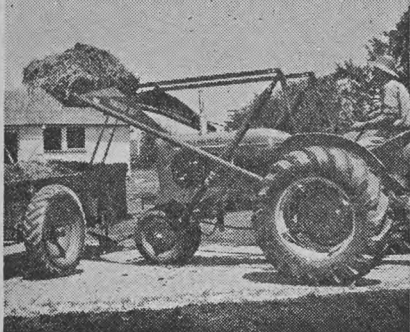
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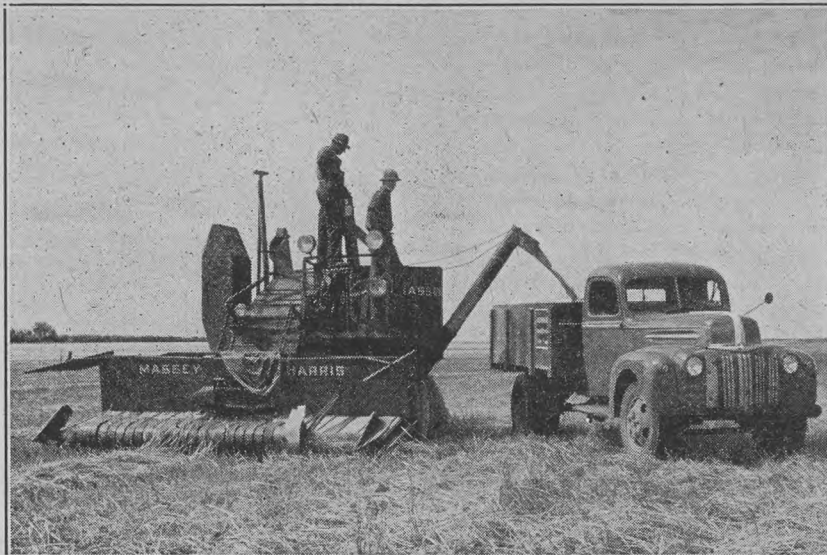
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FIELD



Manitoba's 53-million-bushel wheat harvest was well under way by August 20, under circumstances promising a Canadian crop 70 per cent above the 1941-50 average and 100 million bushels above the 1928 record of 567 million bushels.

Weed Control Area

IN 1951, Saskatchewan passed legislation making it possible for farmers in any area of the province to place restrictions on the growing of certain crops in that area. In some cases, the object might be to prevent the crossing of open-pollinated seed crops such as alfalfa, and in other cases to keep certain diseases out of seed crops.

Last spring, a seed control area was established in the Kelvington district, the principal object being to keep loose smut out of the fields of seed barley. The area was already well developed as a seed barley producing district, but unfortunately true loose smut cannot be controlled by seed treatments such as the mercurial dusts customarily used. The fungus of true loose smut, unlike covered smut and false loose smut, bores into undeveloped kernels in the growing crop, and remains there while the grain is in storage. After planting, the fungus bores through the growing stem of the young barley plant, and eventually consumes the kernels as they are beginning to form. Later, it develops a multitude of spores which are spread to other plants by the wind. This starts the cycle all over again every time they land on the heads of healthy barley.

The basis of the Kelvington seed control area was not only the fact that the district had for a considerable time been the malting barley seed-growing center of the province, but the additional fact that a hot water treatment for the control of true loose smut had been evolved by Dr. R. C. Russell, Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Saskatoon, after four years' work. This treatment is efficient enough to eliminate all infection in barley kernels except less than half of one per cent. Two years ago, a barley seed treater was brought to Kelvington, after having been built in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, University of Saskatchewan.

Half-bushel lots of barley are put into cotton sacks, and placed for five hours in a pre-soak tank, where the temperature is held at 70 degrees F. Sacks are then suspended from specially designed hooks, in the treating machine, where they are attached to an endless chain moving slowly through the machine for a period of

11 minutes. By this time, the smut has been destroyed by the hot water which has been held at the exact temperature of 126 degrees F. Lower temperatures will not destroy the fungus, and warmer temperatures destroy germination of the barley.

After treating, the barley is chilled briefly in another tank, placed on draining racks for 20 minutes, then dried on other racks for about four hours, by subjecting it to warm air at 95 degrees F. forced through the sacks by a large blower which drives the air through a drying tunnel.

Five men are required for a crew, and the operation is quite slow, even on a 24-hour basis. Last winter, it was possible to treat only about 1,000 bushels at the rate of 50 to 75 bushels each 24 hours, and at a cost of about \$1 per bushel.

All registered seed growers in the district pay for the treatment of their own seed at this rate, but grants from the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and of the Barley Improvement Institute permit treatment free of cost to growers of commercial seed, on the understanding that seed grown from such treated seed would be made available first to other growers within the area for the next crop year.

As yet, the Canadian Seed Growers Association has not provided any smut-free seed grade. Barley seed growers in the Kelvington area are hoping that eventually a federal seed grain inspector can take samples of the barley from each grower's bins, send them to the Laboratory of Plant Pathology for testing, and thus make possible the sale of sealed seed carrying the results of an official test.

Forage Crops Encouraged

IN 1947, the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture began its forage crop program. Seed of various legumes and grasses was purchased in carload lots, and growers were supplied with recommended mixtures at the lowest possible prices.

For 1952, the minister, the Hon. I. C. Nollet, announced the continuation of this policy, plus special financial assistance on the purchase of grass-alfalfa mixtures up to a limit of 20 acres per farm. Funds made available from the Horned Cattle Purchases Act Trust Fund are used to reduce by about one-third the price which applicants have previously been

It's Always Time For Farm Fires

November through to March are the months of heavy farm fire losses. Chimneys are among the commonest causes. Pipe brackets sag, mortar crumbles, liners crack. Overheated flues send out sparks, and trouble starts. You can lessen fire hazards by checking your pipes and chimneys frequently, taking them down twice a year to clean out soot.



If fire does occur, your fire insurance policy is a supremely important document. So take good care of it. Put it beyond risk of fire or loss by keeping it in a safety deposit box at your local branch of Imperial Bank, along with your other valuable papers.



Remember too, that many fires today are caused by overloading electric wiring with too many appliances, causing them to heat up. Have your local electrician check your wiring to see if it is heavy enough, and do not use heavier fuses than recommended. During the hot dry weather of July and August, grass and bush fires, often started by children playing with matches, can cause considerable damage. A good investment is a fire extinguisher in the home, barn or other important building. Remember, replacement values are higher today than when your buildings were built.

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asked to pay, namely, the basic cost price of seed to the department.

In the spring of 1952, more than 3,000 farmers obtained seed under this program sufficient to sow 45,000 acres. The minister has announced that since the program began in 1947, more than 12,000 farmers have ordered seed sufficient to sow over 200,000 acres. Late in August, an announcement was made of the 1952 fall seeding forage crop program, and farmers are invited to contact their agricultural representative, municipal secretaries, or to write direct to the Plant Industry Branch, Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, Legislative Buildings, Regina, for further information.

The department has recently published a special pamphlet dealing with this program, available from agricultural representatives, secretaries of rural municipalities, experimental stations, and from Regina. It gives recommended mixtures for hay and pasture seedings in each soil zone in the province. This year, also, seed of Reed Canary grass is included for low-lying flooded lands, and also two corn varieties for fodder.

Irrigation and Soil

OFFICIALS at the Lethbridge Experimental Station call attention to records covering all of the irrigation projects in Alberta, which indicate that 40 per cent of the irrigable crop land of the large irrigation projects is devoted to wheat; eight per cent to oats; six per cent to barley; ten per cent to grass hay and pasture; six per cent to alfalfa hay; ten per cent to specialized crops such as sugarbeets, seeds and canning crops; four per cent to miscellaneous crops; and 16 per cent to summerfallow.

Wheat, oats, barley and summerfallow make up about 70 per cent of the total irrigable crop area, with summerfallow alone accounting for 100,000 acres. In 1949, wheat averaged 27 bushels per acre, oats 40 bushels, and barley 35 bushels. Comment is offered that these yields are much too low for irrigation farming; and certainly from the farm income point of view, the probable revenue, taking into account the heavy costs for summerfallowing with no revenue to offset them, would seem to be too low.

On the other hand, the station points out that a high degree of production has been established on many irrigation farms, through the use of legume rotations, commercial fertilizers and the application of barnyard and feedlot manure. The other group of farms—the 40 bushels of oats per acre group—are not only failing to equal the average expected in some dry-land farming districts of the prairies, but they are obtaining their lower yields at greater expense.

"Changes in cropping practices on these projects," say the station authorities, "do not have to depend entirely on the development of markets for more specialized crops, or on the development of more specialized crops that can be grown and marketed. One of the first needs, in stepping up yields per acre on our irrigated lands, is to increase greatly the proportion of soil improvement crops, including legumes and grasses. This involves either livestock feeding, where the manure is returned to the land, or green manure

where green growth is plowed under. It also involves the use of phosphate fertilizer to obtain maximum yields and quality of soil-improving crops, and the cash crops that follow."

The widely known rotation U at the Lethbridge station has brought a 40-year average of continuous cropping of wheat, 55 bushels; oats, 104 bushels; barley, 85 bushels. Even allowing for an expected difference between experimental results and average farm results, these differences are greater than should be expected.

Ring Rot and Late Blight

POTATO yields and quality are seriously affected in some years by ring rot and by late blight. Ring rot has been very troublesome in Alberta, and not only affects the tubers but may contaminate a whole field quickly. It may be spread by machinery, and disinfection of such machinery is therefore important, including tools, planters and other equipment. Before moving from one field to another, W. Lobay, supervisor of crop protection, Alberta Department of Agriculture, recommends spraying equipment with a solution of one pint of formaldehyde and 20 gallons of water, or a pound of bluestone in ten gallons of water. Storage cellars should also be sprayed, and sacks soaked in this solution.

Late blight is a fungus disease developed in vines late in the season, and gives the leaves of the potato plant a sickly bluish-green color. Later, brown and red spots develop, often with greyish mildew or mold on the under surface. Blackened strips appear lengthwise on the stems, and on the tubers the disease shows as a form of dry rot under the skin.

The Experimental Farm at Brandon says that late blight in a potato patch requires the complete destruction of all potato tops before digging. They can be killed two weeks before harvest, either with commercial chemical top-killers manufactured for the purpose, or by mowing the tops and destroying them. If the tops are not destroyed, live spores of the disease are likely to infect the tubers as they are dug. This may be true even if the top growth has been sprayed previously for disease control.

Storing the Combine

IT will not be long before the 1952 work season for the combine will have been completed. The best time to make a thorough and systematic check-up of the entire machine is immediately after it has had considerable use, and while the details of its working and operation are still fresh in the mind of the owner. Such a prompt check-up pays dividends in the form of time and money saved, and also in increased life and efficiency of the machine.

The Experimental Farm at Brandon advises special care in preparing the motor for storage. This means draining the crankcase, air cleaner and oil filter. Put in new oil, run the engine for a few minutes to put a good film of oil on the metal; likewise, drain the fuel and cooling system, and cover the exhaust.

"Check the entire frame, wheels and supporting parts for loose bolts and rivets," say the Brandon authorities. "Wheel bearings will have a lengthened life if old grease and dirt are washed out with kerosene. Place rubber-mounted machines on blocks

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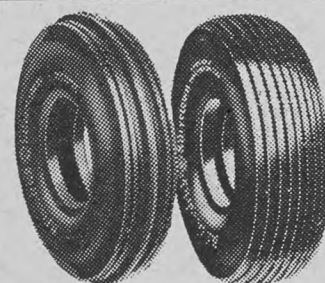
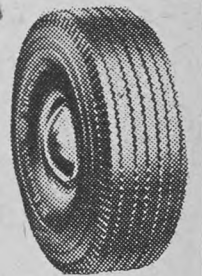
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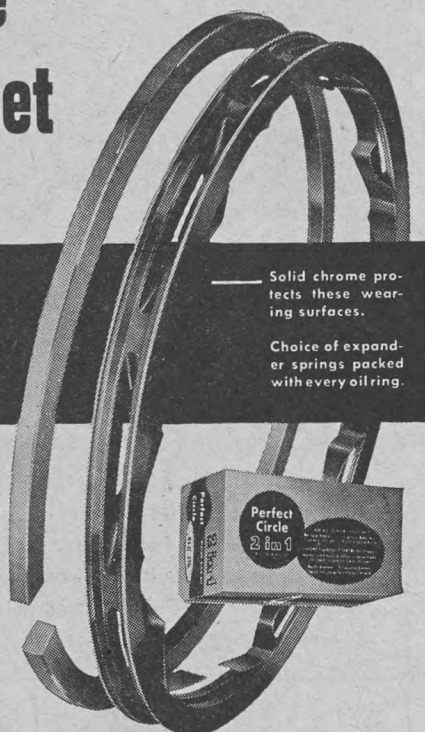
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to relieve pressure on the tires. Check the tires for bruises, cuts and cracks. See that in tooth-type cylinder machines, the end play of the cylinder is not more than one-sixty-fourth of an inch. For the bar-type machines, remove and reverse the bars whenever the faces of the bar show signs of wear. Check straw decks for loose or broken slats; and inspect and clean all slipped clutches and roller chains. Remove V-belts, wash in warm, soapy water, dry well, then paint with rubber tire paint and hang in a dry place, away from the direct rays of the sun."

After-Harvest Tillage

THE Lethbridge Experimental Station has studied the effect of after-harvest tillage on the following grain crops for a number of years. Comparisons are made between blading, one-way disking and basin listing, as well as no-tillage treatment. On the untreated stubble fields, the average yield has been 14.3 bushels. This compares with 15.7 bushels per acre where the blader was used the previous fall. Yields following other treatments did not differ very much from those on untreated stubble.

Station authorities suggest weed control and increased moisture conservation as reasons for the increased yield resulting from blading. Since one-way disking and blading provide about equal weed control, it is believed that the blading provides superior moisture conservation by retaining a good, well-anchored trash cover on the soil surface. No doubt it also opens up the soil and permits a greater intake of moisture, and enables the stubble on the bladed fields to hold more winter snow.

Lethbridge advises stubble-working as soon as possible after the crop is off, especially where there is thistle to control. Blading immediately after harvest reduces seed production by Russian thistle plants, by from 75 to 100 per cent.

Great Plains Fertility Down

SOIL scientists of the USDA Agricultural Research Administration have been studying the slow decline in fertility of the Great Plains states, notably Kansas, Oklahoma, North Dakota, Nebraska and Montana. The fertility of these soils is now becoming a matter of concern, though moisture is still the dominant problem in crop production.

The decline of organic matter content was first observed about 20 years ago, and is now believed to be an important factor in reducing crop yields. At Woodward, Okla., yields varied from 7.5 to 18 bushels per acre, and at Mandan, N.D., from 12 to 30 bushels per acre. When 25 pounds of nitrogen was applied either to the soil, or as a leaf spray, winter wheat yields were increased by ten bushels per acre on the average, at four out of seven locations. At nearly all locations, the protein content of the grain was increased. At Hayes, Kan., Kafir grain yields were similarly increased by the addition of manure. Manure also increased oat yields at Mandan by 17.5 bushels per acre, or by 50 per cent, and boosted corn yields by 14 bushels. At North Platte, Neb., manuring over an eight-year period raised potato yields by 21 per cent.

It is reported that a striking demonstration of the value of grass and

legumes in reducing losses of organic matter was obtained at Moccasin, Mont., on plots which were formerly planted to crested wheat grass and brome grass. Alternate cropping and fallowing since 1908 gave 12 bushels of 12 per cent protein wheat. Fields that had been in grass for 17 years produced 18 per cent protein wheat.

Evidence that fertilizer encourages early, vigorous, root growth of grain crops was obtained at Woodward, Okla. Oklahoma is the fifth state south of the international boundary, so spring is much earlier than in the prairie provinces of Canada. The fertilized wheat by March 1 had used only small amounts of moisture from the top six inches of soil, and yielded 19 bushels per acre. Fertilized wheat obtained moisture six inches below the surface by January, 12 inches by early February, and 22 inches by March 1. Yield was 24 bushels per acre.

Fall Cultivation vs. Fertilizer

IT is often said that adding fertilizer to grain crops on the prairies will ordinarily increase yield by five or six bushels per acre. The Brandon Experimental Farm reports that on the Reclamation Station at Melita, early autumn cultivation or plowing, followed by a thorough cultivation before seeding the following spring, has increased the yield of oats by seven bushels per acre over the crop grown on land receiving only spring tillage. This seems to point up the importance of after-harvest cultivation.

Brandon also comments unfavorably on the fact that two or three successive grain crops after summerfallow are quite commonly grown on Manitoba farms. "Yields from second and third crops are becoming less satisfactory," say the Farm authorities, "particularly since the advent of the pick-up thresher and the depositing of all crop residue on the surface of the fields."

Early after-harvest tillage of stubble land is strongly recommended for weed control, while a high clearance cultivator is advised to preserve the straw mulch on the surface. Where soils are subject to drifting, the one-way disk and wide level disk should not be used. Aside from the fact that these implements tend to mix the crop residue into the surface soil and thus leave a seed-bed far from ideal for starting a new crop, shallow plowing where conditions are favorable, followed by early spring harrowing and packing, is the method recommended for starting wild oats and other annual seeds in time to kill the resulting plants before seeding.

Planting by Temperature

AN estimated 60 per cent of Colorado's wheat land probably will be planted by soil temperature readings this fall. "Crops and Soils" reports that farmers believe this practice was important in producing an excellent crop in 1951.

Before recommending it to Colorado farmers, the scientists at the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station developed and thoroughly tested the method. The idea is to prevent damage from wheat root-rot, which flourishes in warm soil, but in cool ground is not nearly so serious. In Colorado, the critical of temperatures is from 60 to 65 degrees F. in the middle of the afternoon at a depth of three inches,



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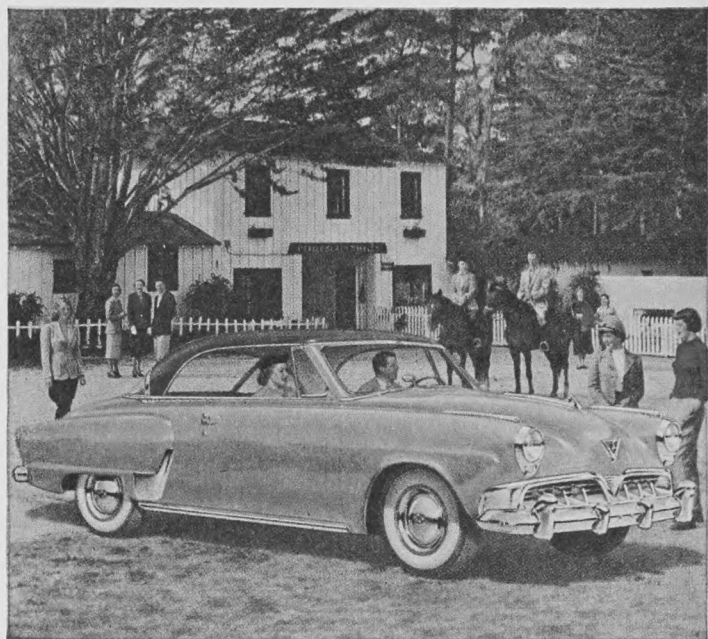
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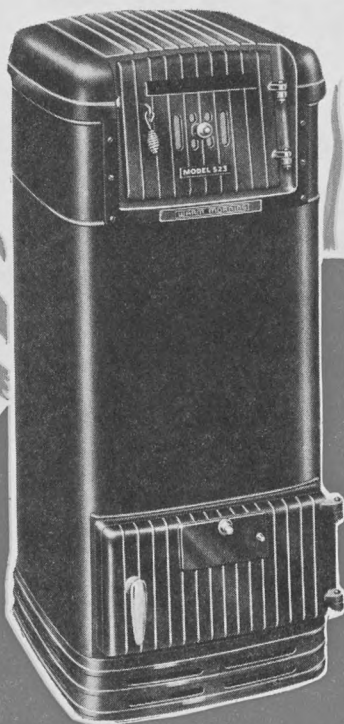
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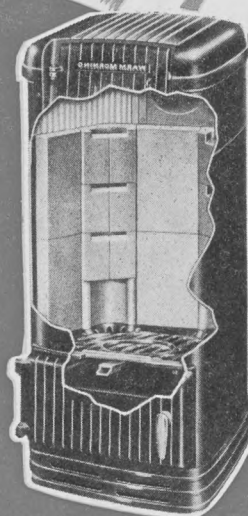
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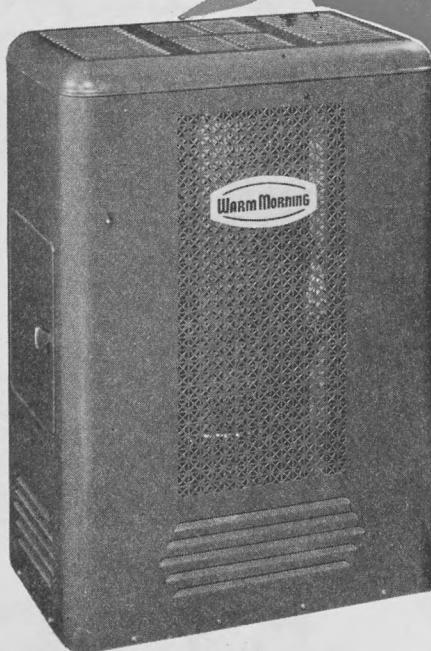
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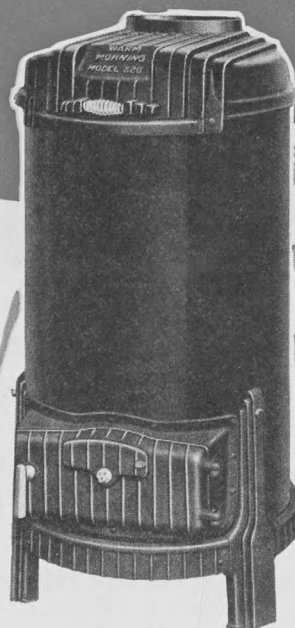
Finished in luxurious two-tone brown infra-red baked enamel; design permits utmost warm air circulation; back flue outlet; double oil straining features; constant level safety float valves; removable pilot and combustion rings to permit easy cleaning; draft regulator to meet individual chimney conditions. Clean, safe, dependable OIL heat. Dimensions: 8" pot size; 24¾" wide, 21" deep incl. tank; 35" high; fuel tank capacity 4 Imp. gallons. Shipping weight 105 lbs.



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Britain's Clubs

Continued from page 10

a farm. Contestants are required to determine the value of the farm buildings, the livestock, crops, fences and machinery, and to allow for depreciation and other factors.

THE County Rally is another important event in the summer program. Teams from the local clubs gather to participate in all kinds of competitions and present demonstrations in handicrafts. Similar programs are staged at local and county agricultural shows. At the two national shows, the Royal Highland and the Royal Show, the Young Farmers' tent attracts considerable public interest, as the crowds gather to watch these competitions and demonstrations.

While training in agricultural knowledge plays an important part in the Young Farmers' program, an opportunity is provided to acquire skills in handicrafts of all kinds, particularly those pertaining to rural life. For example, the boys learn how to erect wire and electric fences and construct wooden gates, or hurdles. Classes in welding prepare them to construct metal gates. Courses are also given in working with tools and machinery.

One of the most interesting features of the courses in handicrafts, however, is the attempt to maintain and revive some of the ancient traditional crafts. For example, we were told that the art of constructing the dry stone dykes (fences) which are such a common part of the Scottish landscape, is rapidly becoming lost. We were, therefore, particularly interested in a demonstration of this craft staged by a Scottish Young Farmer at the Royal Highland Show in Kelso. Willie Scott, a member of the Lyddesdale Club, had just completed his three years' apprenticeship and he explained that it takes almost an hour and about one ton of stone to build one yard of fence.

To the tourist, part of the charm of the Devon countryside lies in the numerous thatched roofs. Thatching, too, is dying out, but some of the Young Farmers also learn how to construct these roofs. Rope and spar making are other traditional crafts in the West Country; and the Devon Young Farmers gave a very convincing demonstration of their skill by winning the National Spar Making Competition at this year's Royal Show, with a score of 99.

Although British farm girls do more outside work than their Ontario sisters, they by no means neglect the home-making skills. Some of the interesting demonstrations we saw at the Royal Show, included poultry trussing, butter making, cheese making, preserving fruit, preparing a vegetable salad, and decorating a cake. The girls are also instructed in bacon curing, dress designing and home nursing. These classes are held during the winter months in addition to the regular meetings.

THE third important phase of the Young Farmers' program is concerned with fitting its members to take their places in the life of their community, conscious of their responsibilities as good citizens. Training in democratic procedure begins in the local club with the election of officers, who are responsible for the operation of the club. Proper business procedure

is followed at club meetings and the members learn to make a motion and discuss the club's affairs.

This training in expressing their ideas clearly and logically is supplemented by special classes, and competitions in public speaking. These speech-making competitions are somewhat different from ours in Ontario. The clubs enter, not an individual speaker, but a team consisting of a chairman, a speaker and a mover of the vote of thanks, and perhaps, also, a seconder to this motion. The chairman's duty is to take charge of the meeting and introduce the speaker to the audience and the judges. Then the speaker is allowed six minutes to present the subject he has chosen. (Speakers in the finals of a national competition may not use the same topic as in the county and area competitions.) Then the chairman calls on the judges to question the speaker. When the questions have been answered, the chairman introduces the mover of the vote of thanks, who is given two minutes to thank the speaker for his address. Prizes are awarded, not only for the best team, but also for the best chairman, speaker and mover of the vote of thanks.

The organization of inter-club debates provides additional training in public speaking. Brains trusts, or discussion groups, are also practical and popular. Most clubs afford their members an opportunity to take part in dramatics; and drama competitions have aroused considerable interest among Young Farmers' Clubs.

The Ontario Junior Farmers noticed, however, that the informal sing-songs and more formal choirs, both so popular in Ontario clubs, were missing in the Young Farmers' program. So, too, was the close relationship between Ontario Junior Farmers and the church in their community. Indeed, these are the two features of the Ontario Junior Farmers' program most frequently commented on by visiting Young Farmers' delegations.

ONE feature of the Young Farmers' program which the Ontario group greatly admired, was the opportunity given their members to participate in exchange visits of all kinds. We were quite interested to learn that these are often carried on at the inter-county level. For example, a group of Ayrshire Young Farmers had visited Cornwall in exchange for a group from Cornwall going to Ayrshire. Similarly, we learned that some of the Devon Young Farmers with whom we stayed, had paid an exchange visit to Lanark County in Scotland.

During our stay we had an opportunity to meet a group of 20 or more young people from Germany, and their English hosts from Berkshire. Along with a large contingent of American exchange visitors, we spent an afternoon with them in fun and good fellowship.

Because of the vast distances involved, only a few can take part in the exchange system between Young Farmers of Scotland and England and the farm youth of Ontario and United States. At present, however, four Young Farmers from Scotland and six from England visit Ontario and in return four Ontario Juniors are entertained by their Young Farmers' Clubs. Similarly exchange visits are organized between Great Britain and the United States.



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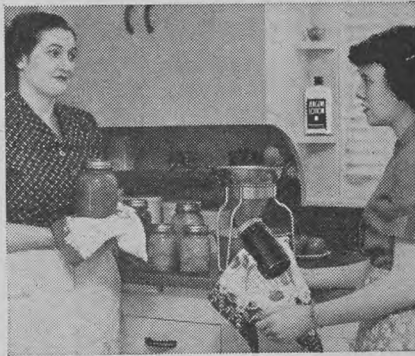
says Mrs. J. J. Hall

"We all pitch in during the strenuous days of culling and packing the vegetable crop," Mary Ruth Hall explains. "That way we get it off to market in jig time and can go on a fishing trip to celebrate."

In spite of her big share of the harvesting work, washing gritty produce and handling rough crates and baskets, Mrs. Hall's hands are prettily soft and smooth. "Thanks to regular use of Jergens Lotion," says Mary.



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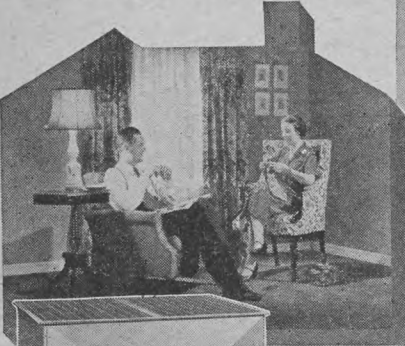


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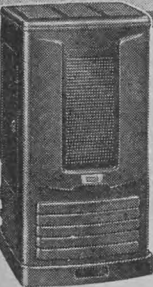
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HORTICULTURE



These Rescue apple-crabs look ready to eat. They were grown by H. R. Hinchliffe, Kelfield, Sask.

Hardiness Research Needed

DURING recent years, some very significant developments have occurred at Lethbridge, which should ultimately react to the substantial benefit of prairie horticulture, to say nothing of agriculture generally in southern Alberta. The nearness to each other of the Experimental Station and the recently established Regional Science Service Laboratory should be able to produce an integrated program of agricultural and horticultural research that is not available, as far as we are aware, in any other part of Canada, except at Ottawa, the headquarters of the Experimental Farms and the Science Services.

Though Lethbridge is located in "sunny southern Alberta," where irrigation development has been under way for many years, the fact remains that the problem of winter hardiness, which is the key to horticultural success anywhere in the prairie provinces, is perhaps more severe in the Lethbridge area than anywhere on the prairies. This largely arises from the extreme fluctuations in winter temperature caused by the chinook winds which produce very rapid changes in temperature, creating severe shocks to tender and semi-tender horticultural plants.

It is also somewhat surprising that in spite of the large number of investigators and researchers who have at one time or another worked on the problem of hardiness in plants, there appears still to be a great deal more research needed on this subject. Almost anyone could explain what hardiness is from a practical point of view, but no one yet seems to be able to say with complete understanding what hardiness is scientifically.

There would seem to be no better location for centering such research than in the Lethbridge area. The reason is that not only is the problem acute there, but that so many facilities essential for the prosecution of such a study are there also, or could be added with the least additional expenditure of money. Another reason is that there is already a substantial horticultural development in the field of vegetables and canning crops in the area, as well as some commercial small fruit growing. Finally, there is the nearness of these research centers to the eastern slopes of the Rocky

Mountains where there is an almost untouched collection of native fruits and plants in the wild, about many of which we know practically nothing.

It would seem to be a timely move for the Western Canadian Society of Horticulture, through its Research Advisory Committee, to give careful consideration to this thought, and to couple with it perhaps some more pronounced development in the way of exploring the utility, either for cultivation or breeding, of the wild plant species lying so near at hand on the slopes of the Foothills and the Rocky Mountains. Something of this has already been attempted in a very small way by I. L. Nonnecke, horticulturist at the Experimental Station, Lethbridge, where a beginning has been made toward the establishment of an arboretum of these wild species, and where, also, some crossing of wild plants has been done with a view to introducing hardiness into the cultivated types. Some of these plants transplanted from the wild have not done too well, and consideration is now being given to potting some of the cultivated plants at Lethbridge and transporting them to the vicinity of the wild plants during the blooming season.

Whatever may or may not be done in this direction during the next few years, it still remains true that man has yet made but little use of the vast number of plant species, perhaps 300,000 in all, throughout the world. Indeed, it is probable that most of our important cultivated farm crops are confined within a very few of these species. A statement has frequently been made, with what correctness we do not know, that agriculture as yet uses only about 200 plant species for crop production. Of these, not more than a half-dozen at most have been brought even reasonably close to full exploitation as to their human uses.—H.S.F.

Three Lawn Weeds

THE Ontario Department of Agriculture calls attention to three weeds commonly found together in lawns—dandelions, plantain and chickweed—and suggests that next to early spring spraying with 2,4-D, early fall spraying will give equally good control of dandelions, and the other two as well, and works much better than applications in midsummer.

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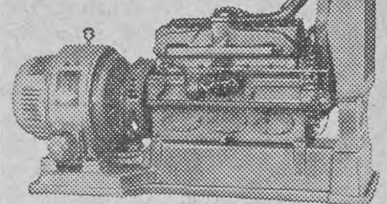
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Any small hand-operated sprayer should be satisfactory, or even a sprinkling can if it is used carefully. Danger with the sprinkling can may come from waste of the material and damage to the lawn. If no other sprayer is available, and a sprinkling can is used, it would be better to use the amine form of 2,4-D, especially on those parts of the lawn that are shaded. The rate recommended is one-third of an ounce per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

If these weeds have taken over certain portions of the lawn, and bare spots appear after the killing out of the weeds, the spots can be fertilized and sown with some grass seed so that the grass will have a start for next year.

Fall Transplanting

IN many ways, herbaceous perennials provide the most satisfying of the flowering plants in the garden, because they do not as a rule require much care and attention at seasons of the year when most farm families are very busy. Most authorities agree, however, that for best results they should be broken up and transplanted at least every four or five years.

Moreover, nearly all such perennials require good cultural conditions for best results, including fairly heavy applications of well-rotted barnyard manure in the fall, as a top dressing to be worked into the soil as early in the spring as practicable. They also thrive best on plenty of moisture, especially for abundant blooming.

Generally speaking, those plants which bloom fairly early in the spring require fall planting, or transplanting, to give them time to establish themselves before freeze-up. These include the well-known and favorite spring blooming plants such as peonies, bearded iris, lilies and tulips. Iris are usually transplanted in August; peonies in late August or September; the bulbs of lilies from mid-September into October; and tulips about the same time as lilies. Most other perennials can be lifted and divided in the fall, after flowering is over.

Care must be taken with iris not to plant too deeply, just covering the rhizomes with soil. Small blooms indicate overcrowding, and when transplanting discard the old center part and plant the young outer portions.

Peonies are sensitive. They dislike being moved, and respond well to an abundance of good plant food. When divided in the fall, each section planted should have about five eyes, and after planting, the crown of the tuber should be approximately two inches below the soil surface. If planted more deeply poor blooming may result.

The depth of planting for lilies varies with the different species. Some have basal roots only, and these are planted from four to six inches deep as a rule, while those producing stem roots (above the bulb) as well as basal roots, may be planted from eight to 12 inches deep. The Experimental Station at Morden recommends that the Regal lily should be planted at the latter depth, and the bulbs laid on their sides for better drainage. Morden recommendations for the various lilies are as follows: Candidum, two inches; Cernuum, six inches; Max will, six inches; Davids, Henry, Centifolium and Stenograph lilies, nine

inches; Pumilum, five inches; Tiger, eight inches; Amabile, Martigon and Superbum lilies, seven inches.

Early tulips at five inches deep and late tulips at six inches will be about right. Some good gardeners dig up the tulips each year after the leaves have died down following blooming, and keep them in cold storage until the fall. Others leave them in the ground for two or more years. They are best planted where the full sun can get at them, but they will tolerate partial shade.

Strawberry Mulching

THE Beaverlodge Experimental Station feels that strawberries should be mulched over winter for successful cropping. When snowfall is light in winter, mulching will prevent alternate freezing and thawing with resulting heaving of the plants and the breaking of small rootlets.

Coarse wheat or rye straw free of weed seeds is recommended, because it will not pack too tightly and smother the plants. Mulch deeply enough so that after settling the mulch is three to six inches deep.

Time of application is considered important. In the Peace River area, this is usually late October or early November. The point is that the plants must be thoroughly dormant and fully hardened by cool nights, but should not be exposed to temperatures below 20 degrees F. before mulching.

In the spring the mulch should be taken away when the leaf growth emerges from the plant crowns. If it is removed too early, an occasional late frost will do considerable damage. Beaverlodge station authorities advise removing the straw more or less gradually so that the plants will not be too suddenly exposed. Most of it can be left between the rows.

Winter Flowers

YOU can have flowers blooming inside during the long winter months by potting some ordinary winter-flowering bulbs. The most popular are hyacinth, narcissus and tulips. They are not very difficult to grow, and add a great deal of beauty, color and variety.

The earlier the bulbs are purchased and potted, the fresher they are, and the less likely heat is to reduce their quality. Mix about three parts of rich garden soil with one part of coarse sand, and, if desired, add some leaf mold, but no fertilizer. Try to use the better forcing varieties, and preferably, perhaps, those grown in B.C., which are early maturing. Chilling the bulbs for a month before potting them will also help bring them along. The temperature should be about 48 degrees F.

Use gravel or broken crockery over the drainage hole in the pots. Add enough soil and firm it well enough to bring it level with the top of the bulb, but about one-half inch below the pot rim. Water thoroughly and place in cool dark storage. Leave there until the roots are well developed, which may require from six weeks to three months.

Keep the soil moist by watering as necessary, and when the buds are about one inch long, move to a little more light in the cellar, gradually increasing the temperature as the plant hardens. Place in the living room when the leaves expand and the flower parts appear.

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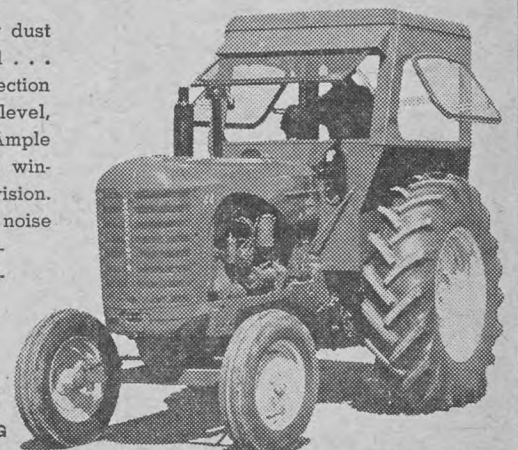
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POULTRY



Members of the Manitoba Turkey Breeders' Association listen to D. S. Stevenson, agricultural representative at Morris.

Manitoba Turkey Breeders Meet

*Qualified speakers suggested techniques
for even greater success with turkeys*

THE Manitoba Turkey Breeders' Association recently held its annual meeting at Letellier, Manitoba. Several speakers discussed problems related to the production and marketing of turkeys.

A. W. Clevett, inspector, Poultry Marketing and Production Services, reported to the breeders that stocks of turkey meat in storage in Canada as of July 1, 1952, had increased 76 per cent to a total of 4,490,000 pounds; other poultry meats had increased varying amounts with broilers up 32 per cent, chicken 185 per cent, fowl 252 per cent and ducks and geese 35 per cent. The total of all poultry meats in storage in Canada as of July 1 was 19,814,000 pounds, compared with 7,963,000 pounds on June 1, 1951.

Present prices are low, and although the fall prices are not yet established they are not expected to be high. Some producers are asking for federal price supports.

P. A. Kondra, assistant professor, Animal Science Department, University of Manitoba, discussed fertility and hatchability of turkey eggs. He defined fertility as the presence of a live embryo in the egg; hatchability is the ability of the embryo to live and produce a poul.

The birds should be as near to eight months of age at breeding time as possible. Older birds become sluggish and produce infertile eggs. Arrangements for the males should be made that will reduce fighting to a minimum. Males kept through the breeding season tend to become less fertile.

Having healthy stock gives no assurance of high fertility, but its absence is responsible for lowered fertility. Housing and lights can also have an important bearing. There is evidence to support the belief that if the temperature of the laying house is below freezing less fertile eggs will be laid. This is quite apart from the fact that very low temperatures may kill the embryo and so reduce hatchability. The ideal arrangement of lights is a 60-watt bulb for every 200 square feet of floor space turned on for 13 hours a day. If the lights are

too strong or on for too long they overstimulate the flock.

The handling of the eggs and the care used in their incubation can have an important effect on hatchability. After they are gathered the eggs should be chilled to retard development of the embryo. Nutrition can have an important effect on hatchability, and Professor Kondra suggested breeders seek the advice of a qualified nutritionist. In his opinion the use of Vitamin B₁₂ and antibiotics has definitely been overemphasized in Canadian rations.

Inbreeding has an adverse effect on hatchability, and if breeders get their hens from a closed flock they should attempt to get their toms from a different breeder.

A. M. Pilkey, poultry husbandman, Northwest School and Experiment Station, Crookston, North Dakota, spoke in favor of good pasture as a means of reducing the cost of production of turkeys. Experimenters in North Dakota raised turkeys at a cost of 15.9 cents a pound on range against a cost of 17.4 cents with no pasture. They have satisfied themselves that pellets are an expensive form of feed, and they no longer recommend their use.

D. C. Foster, poultry specialist, Extension Service, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, reported that the department had approved 10,000 turkeys in 1950, and 22,000 in 1951. Eighty per cent of the birds in the latter year were broad-breasted bronze; the remaining 20 per cent were Nebraskas, Beltsville Whites and White Hollands.

The meeting, which was chaired by agricultural representative D. S. Stevenson, was held at the W. Breton farm at Letellier.

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IF hens are to produce a profit for their owners they require proper buildings. Money spent on good quality laying mashers, and time spent watering, feeding and doing other chores may be largely lost if birds are housed in drafty, cold, damp, dark, unsanitary buildings.

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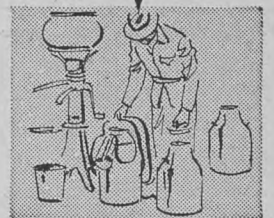
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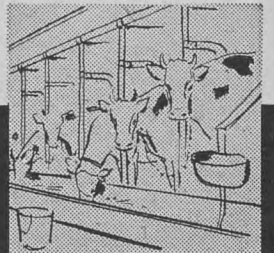
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be poor. Drafty walls can be corrected with the aid of building paper, thick cardboard from boxes, exterior type, sheathing-grade plywoods, asbestos cement boards, hard fibre boards or insulation boards. Hens may peck at and damage insulation boards; this can be prevented by covering the lower parts with sand-cement plaster. Doors and windows should be well fitted to prevent drafts.

If the ventilation system works well the hen house can be kept dry all winter. A ventilating system that has proven very satisfactory on the prairies draws fresh air in from the attic in cold weather. An air out-take shaft is used. Such a system is used at the experimental farm at Swift Current. The advantage of this system is that no direct opening from the outside to the inside is needed through which cold winds may blow and chill the house.

Drawings of this ventilation system and information on community nests, insulation, concrete and self-feeders may be had by writing to the superintendent of the experimental station at Swift Current, Sask.

Evisceration Increasing

POULTRY eviscerated in registered plants in Canada showed a very marked increase in 1952 compared with the same period a year before. In the period January 1 to June 30, 1951, a total of 5,915,058 birds were eviscerated; in the same period of 1952 the figure stood at 9,296,342 birds.

The number of chickens eviscerated increased from 4,947,082 to 7,867,442; fowl increased from 858,233 to 1,328,052; turkeys declined slightly from 109,023 to 100,848.

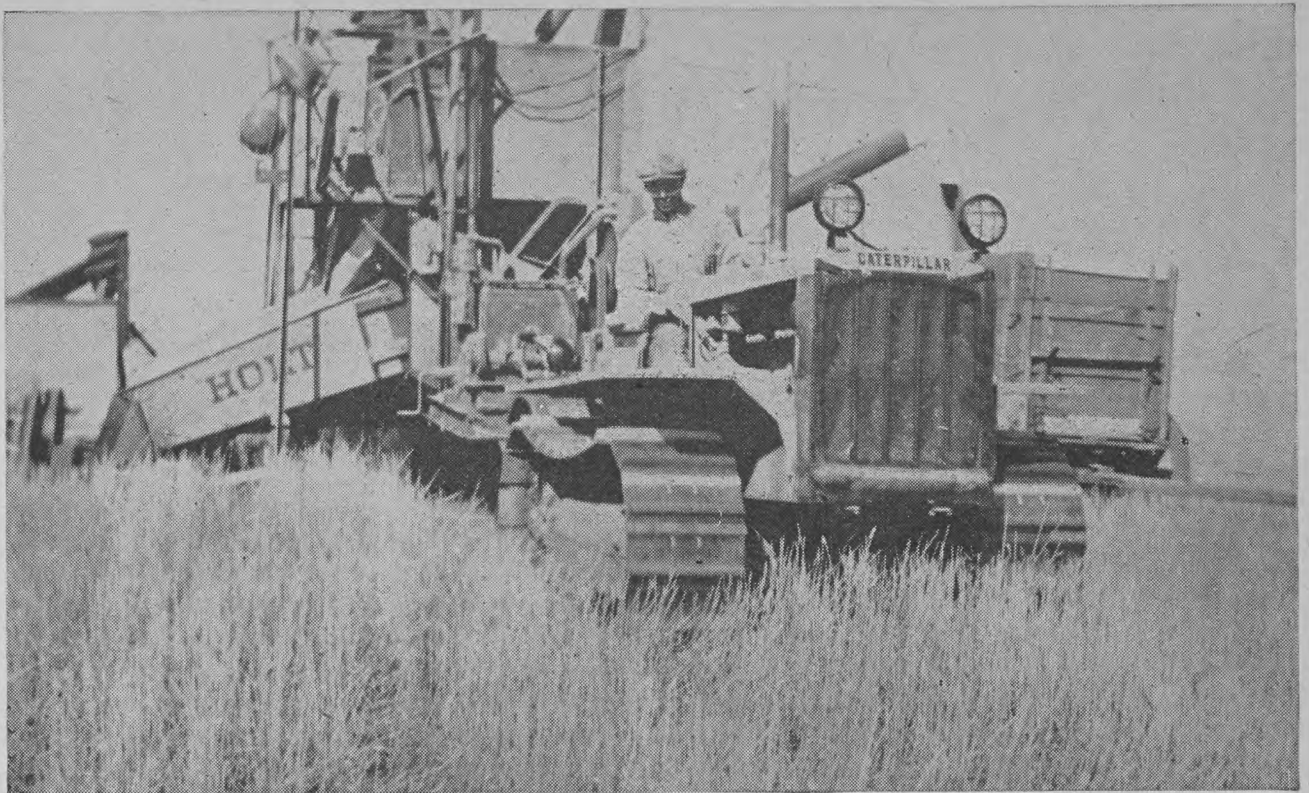
Processing Poultry

MANY small families hesitate to purchase a turkey, as they find that all but the very smallest provide more meat than they care for at one time. In many stores it is now possible to buy half a turkey or the housewife herself can halve the bird.

Cooking half a turkey could be a problem. Home economists of the Consumer Service, Federal Department of Agriculture, have anticipated this problem, and come out with instructions. They say to wash the half turkey and dry it thoroughly. Sprinkle the cavity with salt. Tie the leg to the tail and skewer the wing to the breast. Fasten the skin to the breast meat along the keel bone.

A double thickness of waxed paper cut to the approximate size and shape of the bird is placed on a rack in the roaster, and a mound of dressing placed on the waxed paper. The half turkey is placed on the dressing, and the bird completely covered with cheesecloth dipped in melted fat. Use an uncovered roaster, and add no water; if the cheesecloth becomes dry it can be moistened with drippings from the pan or with additional melted fat.

Some consumers may not want to go to his much trouble and for their convenience frozen, stuffed chicken ready for the oven has recently been placed on the United States market. It is reported that the bird is prepared and stuffed with a special dressing, a colorless plastic bag is drawn over it, the air is expelled with a vacuum pump, and the bird frozen. When thawed out it is ready to be cooked.



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New Peak Established In Grain Exports

An all-time Canadian record for grain exports was established during the 1951-52 crop year ended July 31. From a previous record high of 471 million bushels in 1929, last year's exports soared to a peak of 509 million bushels of all grains. This total included 357 million bushels of wheat, 72 million bushels of oats and 70 million bushels of barley.

During the same period, producers established a new record for total grain deliveries in any single crop year with a total of 718 million bushels. Deliveries during the 1950-51 crop year totalled 564 million bushels.

Estimates of July flour shipments suggest a possible total for the year of 52 million bushels in terms of wheat for the year's wheat flour exports. The combined wheat and wheat flour export totalled 356.7 million bushels, a figure second only to the 1928-29 record of 407.5 million. Contributing to the high volume of overseas exports were 11 million bushels of oats and a record of 59 million bushels of barley. United States imports of the two grains raised the total exports of oats and barley to the figures mentioned above.

Preliminary returns indicated that the United Kingdom was again Canada's best export market for grains. To the end of June, the country had taken 122 million bushels of Canadian grain and milled grain products. United States was this country's second best customer with an import total of 38.7 million bushels of wheat, 58.6 million bushels of oats, 10.2 million bushels of barley and 2.3 million bushels of rye.

The 1951-52 records for both producers' deliveries and export movement were in themselves remarkable but were more so in that they were established under trying and difficult circumstances. Delayed harvesting operations due to inclement weather, a high percentage of tough and damp grades, and a considerable carryover of low grade wheat from the previous season placed a severe strain on handling and transportation facilities and increased the selling problem accordingly. In spite of operating difficulties the country elevator system shipped a total of 667 million bushels of grain and handled an additional 5.2 million bushels for local seed and feed use. Some measure of the immensity of the task is afforded by data of Western car inspections of wheat by grades. A total of 247,722 cars were inspected (183,543 in 1950-51) of which only 78,565, or approximately 32 per cent, were of contract grade. This contrasted with 87,221 cars, or 48 per cent, of contract grade the previous year. One of the major problems of the year, that of drying tough and damp wheat, is indicated by the fact that 47 per cent of inspected cars were either tough or damp in the 1951-52 crop year, while only 20 per cent came within the category the previous year. While the quantity grading Nos. 5, 6, and Feed was only some 3,000 cars below the 45,000 cars falling within these grades in 1950-51, the percentage was con-

siderably lower in 1951-52 because of the much greater volume handled. This vast grain movement, together with an unusual drying problem, assuredly tested the efficiency of the entire Canadian handling and marketing system and as assuredly it met the test effectively. The year's success was a tribute to all agencies connected with the trade and was indicative of close co-operation between all agencies at every level.

The Year Ahead

Present indications point to a record Canadian harvest of cereal grains this year according to preliminary estimates issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics last month. The wheat crop is expected to set an all-time record of over 656 million bushels, all but 24 million bushels of which will be produced in the three prairie provinces. Saskatchewan alone is expected to produce more than half of the nation's total—about 397 million bushels. Estimates of Canadian production of other grains with prairie production estimates in brackets are as follows: barley 295 (285) million bushels, oats 465 (350) million bushels, rye 25 (23) million bushels and flaxseed at nearly 13 (12) million bushels.

Undoubtedly this gigantic crop, while extremely gratifying in prospect, will place a further great strain upon handling facilities between farm and Lakehead or Pacific Coast ports. One pleasing factor is the possibility of taking off a crop in good condition and of extremely high grade following two years of problems with frozen, tough and damp grain.

Even though weather conditions remain favorable enabling the crop to be taken off in good condition, a number of knotty problems may yet develop. The most obvious one is that of storage. Complicating storage of the incoming crop is the country elevator carryover from last year which stood at 133 million bushels at mid-August, some 43 million bushels greater than at the same time a year ago. Country elevator agents are doing everything possible to reduce existing stocks and at time of writing the number of cars in transit is double the number in transit on the same date last year. It is the stocks of grain held in country elevators which are largely responsible for the higher carryover of all grains this year. These stocks, added to the currently expected volume from this year's crop have their effect upon the world market situation and must, of course, be taken into consideration when any assessment of demand and price is attempted. The carryover of stocks of Canadian grain in all positions is officially announced at 405 million bushels of which almost 213 million bushels is wheat. Visible stocks of other grains with the 1950-51 carryover figures in brackets are: oats 46.7 (35.3) million bushels, barley 55.3 (35.4), rye 6.3 (2.4) and flaxseed 2 (1) million bushels.

With a cautious eye on the country storage situation, the Canadian Wheat Board at the commencement of the crop year ordered the establishment of delivery quotas at all points. A quota of five bushels per seeded acre

COMMENTARY

was ordered for wheat and rye and four bushels per seeded acre for oats and barley. These were intended as temporary measures until the storage situation becomes more clearly defined, although an increase in the initial quota has already been authorized at a limited number of points.

It is possible that extensive use will be made of "off-site storage" such as skating rinks, community halls and similar buildings if the need is sufficiently great and if the crop is in good condition when it is taken from the fields. Usually only grain in dry condition can safely be stored in "off-site" structures because of the difficulty of turning out of condition grain in the event of heating. Farm storage is the other alternative and it will be the fortunate producer who has considerable storage space at his command. Recent trends in grain harvesting and marketing have tended to lean away from large farm storage capacity but the total must still be very great when considered along with possibilities of improvising temporary types of storage.

A second difficulty which may be encountered in the movement of the crop from producer to eastern or foreign buyer is the availability of grain carrying vessels on the Great Lakes. While the 55-day strike of United States steel workers is now a thing of the past, the final effect has possibly yet to be felt by prairie grain producers. Immediately following the strike of the steel workers, miners in the Mesabi mines staged a similar strike with the result that a large fleet of lake vessels found itself without a cargo. Rather than tie up until the strike was settled many of these vessels went into the Canadian grain trade—a factor which helped to account for the greater than normal lake movement of grain during the past few months.

As a result of the strike, steel operators now find the need of rebuilding their iron ore stocks if they are to avoid another crisis in the industry. There is therefore keen competition for lake shipping and a greater number of vessels have gone to ore carrying than left it at the commencement of the strike. Just when they will return to the grain trade is not definitely known and some justifiable anxiety is felt in the trade.

The federal transport commissioner has the authority to direct transportation to where it is most needed. Current reports seem to suggest that the grain vessels will not return to the business of hauling grain until late October when the iron ore freezes and can no longer be handled without great difficulty. It is thought that possible unemployment in the steel industry as the result of insufficient ore supplies and interference in defence production programs might influence government policy to the extent that nothing short of a tie-up in the grain trade would influence it in changing present policy.

The final effect of a loss in numbers of grain carrying vessels available to the trade would depend upon the demand abroad for Canadian wheat and coarse grains. If demand slackens a smaller number of vessels would be required to maintain stocks in eastern terminals. If, on the other hand, there

is a strong demand for these products, failure to maintain sufficient stocks in eastern positions could mean the loss of markets which we cannot afford to lose at this time. How strong then is the demand likely to be during the next few months?

Official reports indicate a currently strong demand from overseas sources with no indication of an early slackening. Wheat Board officials are reported to be anticipating no major difficulties in disposing of the major part of this year's gigantic supplies.

Earlier in the season thought in some quarters was slightly pessimistic in view of the prospects of bumper crops in most importing countries and the bright outlook on this continent. Since that time U.S. crops have been severely hit by drought (although the crop will still be large) and demand has been keener than expected from a number of importing countries. A contributing factor has been a much improved U.S. demand for wheat of feed quality and this is said to be moving rapidly at the present time. A price rise in feedstuffs has been experienced in the U.S., and it is thought that additional Canadian supplies will be required as a brake on a position which might have an adverse effect on the over-all food market situation. Some observers suggest the possibility of almost complete utilization of the Canadian feed grain surplus as a result of a keen demand on both domestic and foreign markets.

A major factor influencing current demand for milling wheat is the absence of salable stocks in the Argentine and Australia. The former country is an importer herself at the present time but more important is the fact that she is unable to supply her usual customers in South America. Probably these nations will place their orders largely with the United States although some sales might be expected by Canada.

It is too early to estimate the final outrun of the crop which has just now been seeded in the Argentine and only slightly earlier in Australia. However, reports of predictions from the latter nation suggest that there will be little, if any, wheat to sell on the free market out of the 1952-53 crop. Estimates have placed production at a possible 135 million bushels compared with last year's 166 million bushels.

Australia's commitment is currently set at 88.7 million bushels. After allowing for domestic consumption and the I.W.A. quota, little is likely to remain for sale on the "free market." This in itself should contribute to Canadian sales abroad.

A further interesting possibility from the Canadian point of view is the sharp decline in U.S. wheat exports predicted by American government officials. Wheat and wheat flour exports for the crop year just ended is placed at 470 million bushels. Following a study of the world outlook for U.S. exports, officials place possible exports of wheat and flour for the next year at 350 million bushels. Contributing to the estimated decline are the excellent crops in the importing countries but another factor is that heavy shipments made to India last year are not likely to be repeated this year.

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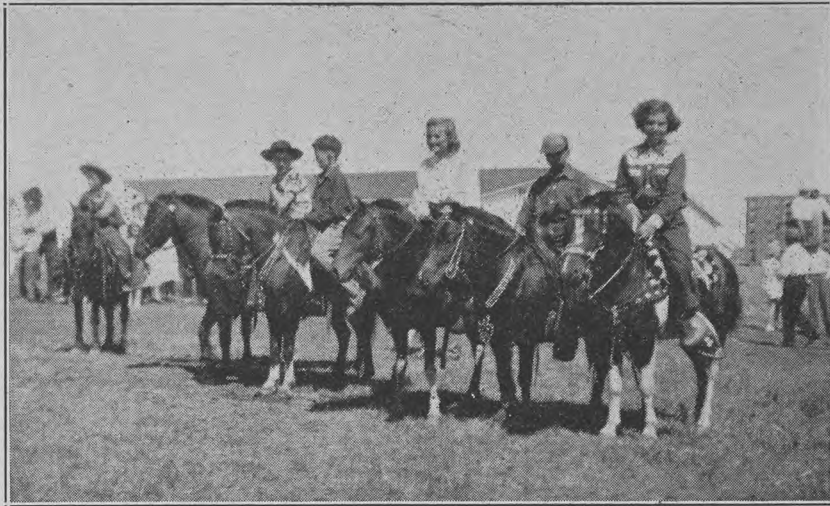
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FARM YOUNG PEOPLE



Young people, and those not so young, get pleasure from a good horse. (Photo by Mrs. P. MacLeod)

The Twenty-Year Bird

The Swainson's hawk is a firm friend to grain growers

by KERRY WOOD

A MOVING shadow made me glance upwards, just in time to see a Swainson's hawk hurtle down with talons spread. A muffled whistle announced that the gopher had sighted its arch enemy and dived into its burrow before those black claws could close. Scree! shrielled the disappointed hawk. The bird alighted on the gopher's mound, hunching there with wings partially spread as though ready to take off at once.

But a movement in the nearby grass changed its mind. The hawk made a couple of fast hops, the gangling wings helping to steady its jumps. This time the talons captured a victim—a fat grasshopper! One gulp, and the insect was gone. The sample must have been tasty, because the hawk moved awkwardly across the ground in search of more. Twice it made the swift but grotesque hops, chasing nimble hoppers. Then the big bird launched aloft once more.

I could see the grass wave and flatten under the impact of air caused by those sweeping, four-foot spans of wings. At first the bird flapped lustily, gaining altitude. Then the hawk stiffened the broad pinions, its weight supported by the upward current of warm air radiated from the sun-heated field. Over the pasture the hawk soared in widening circles, with a few pauses as it hovered, peering down. At last I saw the wings suddenly fold as the bird swooped. A field mouse was caught, triumphantly clutched in the talons as the hawk flapped over my hidden position on its way to the bulky nest in a poplar tree, where its loud-whistling young ones were hungrily waiting for dinner.

The Swainson's is the best of our common prairie hawks. It belongs to the beneficial "buzzard" hawk family, all broad-winged soarers above the prairies. Gophers make up the bulk of this hawk's food, with field mice next in numbers plus a small percentage of grasshoppers and other large insects. On rare occasions you'll see a Swainson's hawk carry off a garter snake or even a green frog, but these are oddities on its menu.

Despite their great usefulness to farmers, hawks are often killed by thoughtless shooters. The Swainson's bird has a habit of perching on fence and telephone posts, and is not too wary when a human comes near.

Such a large target, 20 inches tall, presents a strong temptation to .22 and shotgun hunters, hence many of our finest hawk allies are wantonly shot every summer. Swainson's hawks have a life expectancy of at least 20 years; figure out how many gophers and mice they can catch during a complete lifetime, feeding daily on such fare from April to September while in Canada and dining on destructive rodents of a similar type down on the Argentine pampas, where such hawks spend the winter.

Swainson's hawks are difficult to describe, as they show an amazing variety of light and dark phases of plumage color. The easiest rule to remember is that any large soaring hawk is a farmers' friend.

Sheep Shearing Champion

THE state of North Dakota has an annual competition for its 4-H members, designed to show who can do the fastest and best job of shearing sheep. Four regional eliminations were held and the final heat was recently run off in Bismarck. The winners were two brothers, Donald Ringdahl, Milnor, getting the first prize, and his brother, Gerald, the second.

It turns out that the two boys had plenty of practice for this particular competition; last spring they set out to make pocket money out of clipping sheep and have clipped two and a half thousand animals this year.

Public Speaking Competition

JACK WILKIE, member of the Boyne 4-H Beef Calf Club, recently emerged as 4-H Club public speaking champion for Manitoba. He spoke on the subject "Conservation of Democracy" at the Winnipeg finals. Runner-up was Dean Thurston, Moun'ain-view. Elaine Shuttleworth, Minnedosa, and Ken Sanderson, Holland, tied for third place. Contestants for the finals were selected at 12 regional competitions held throughout the province.

Public speaking competitions are a local feature in most provinces, but Manitoba is the only one that carries them on to provincial finals and selects a provincial champion. The Extension Service is satisfied that 4-H members derive a great deal of benefit from the competitions. The Winnipeg Kiwanis Club sponsors the competition and provides prizes for the winners.

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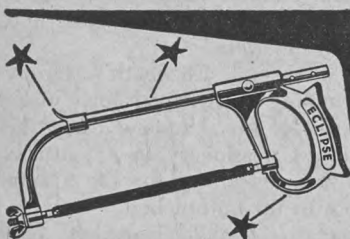
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Workshop in September

Some handy ideas for improving the workshop and feedlot

Paint Scraper

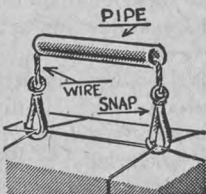
I use this device for removing hardened enamel or paint before repainting or using edged tools.



I took a piece of 3/4-inch wood, wide enough to provide a good grip, cut a slot in one edge with a thin saw, and rounded the other edge. An old hacksaw blade was forced into the thin slot so that it was held securely. The fine teeth will quickly break up the hardest enamel or paint.—I.S.

Package Carrier

Heavy cartons or bundles are not easy to carry. They are usually tied with small rope or wire, and I made a snap-on handle which consists of a short length of pipe just big enough to provide a good grip. A piece of stout wire is run



through the pipe, and a large harness snap fastened to each end. Clipping the snaps to the binding cords makes it easy to carry an otherwise heavy and awkward bundle.—I.S.

Granary Feeder

Feeding livestock involves a considerable amount of labor unless the self-feeder idea can be used. Last year I tried out the idea of grinding hay and grain together and putting this feed into an old granary which I converted into a self-feeder. It is by far the best method I have tried. I have not had any cattle off feed all winter. It saves time, and there is no feed to handle in windy weather. One man can care for 100 head of



cattle with an hour per day, without tractor or horse. I used an old granary 14 feet by 18 feet which I made into a self-feeder, with cattle eating from both sides. I grind four tons of good baled alfalfa with 12 tons of grain once a month with the self-feeder. The cattle do not waste any feed and none is lost in the wind.—F.S.

A Hint or Two

Here is a handy hint or two you will find helpful in shop and bench work. When you wish to measure accurately the distance across a gap or open space like a wide door, which is wider than the length of your measure, hold two rulers or large sticks together, and adjust them so they touch both sides. Then you can get the exact width almost to one one-hundredth of an inch. I also lay two or more yardsticks end to end along the back of my work bench. Then I can easily measure the length of an article by holding it on these yardsticks, without the trouble of reaching for and unfolding a reel. A block against the zero end of the first yardstick to push the piece against will make the arrangement more convenient.—J.H.R.

Cleaning Files

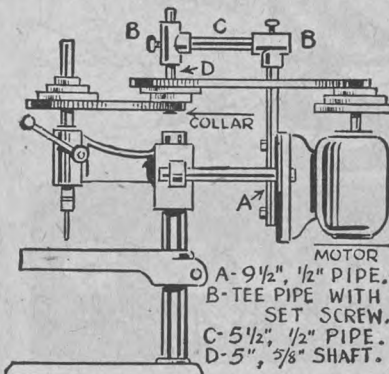
A good way to clean files, and sharpen them also, is to place them in a sulphuric acid solution for a few minutes. As soon as the file is removed, wash it in ammonia to neutralize the acid.—A.E.W., Alta.

Chains for Self-Feeders

We had trouble with our self-feeders which clogged frequently. To stop this, Dad fastened old chains inside the feeders, allowing them to hang down so that the hogs could jerk them, and there was no more trouble with clogging.—C.B.

Slow Speed for Drill Press

I made a slow speed attachment for a drill press by lengthening the two shafts holding the motor base to the drill press, by ten inches, and then built in a 9 1/2-inch length of half-inch pipe to one side of the motor base, so it would extend above the four-step pulley on the motor shown in the drawing. Screw in a tee on the top of this, and through this tee screw a 5 1/2-inch nipple threaded three inches on one end. To the other end is attached another tee with 3/8-inch outlets. Through this tee put a 5/8-inch shaft five inches long, with a set-screw through the tee, to hold it in place. Then a four-step pulley, of the same size as that on the motor and gear press, is bushed with a brand bearing. Since this pulley must turn on the shaft, hold the pulley in place by a collar on the end of the shaft. Instead of the shaft and collar, one could use a 5/8-inch bolt with a machine head, but the shaft is better.



When in use, the original belt is used from the pulley on the press to the inverted pulley on the idler shaft, tension being obtained by moving the motor back on the slides. Another belt is required from the idler, which has been turned over on the motor. Tension for this is secured by screwing the pipe in or out of the tee on the vertical post attached to the motor base. To prevent the tees turning, set-screws are required into the back of each. Should additional tension be required, turn the tee on the post so as to set the idler pulley off center.

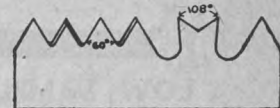
Pulleys used were four-step pulleys of five-inch, four-inch, three-inch and two-inch. These gave excellent slow speed; and exceptionally high speeds are obtainable by reversing the belts. I have used one-inch drills in 1/2-inch drill press, with good results. If it is desired to lower the head on the main post, the idler can be moved to one side and the tension adjusted by the slides and pipe.—E. G., B.C.

HOW TO FILE A WEBSAW

Filing websaws is not difficult if you follow these few simple instructions:

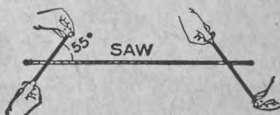
JOINTING First lay the flat side of a small Black Diamond Mill File lengthwise on the saw teeth. Move it back and forth until all teeth are the same height.

FILING RAKERS The tops of raker teeth should be about 1/64" lower than cutting teeth. The "V" of the rakers is best filed with a Black Diamond 6" Cantsaw File. This gives proper 108° angle to the "V" and an even filing on each side.



FILING CUTTING TEETH

Since shape and bevel are important, a Black Diamond Websaw File should be used. The proper tooth angle is 60° for average woods. And to get the right bevel, file at an angle of 55° from the saw. Each bevel is filed separately. Apply pressure on the forward stroke only. And file with a slight upward movement toward the point of the tooth. After filing the teeth, the bevels of which face the filer, turn the saw around and file the remaining teeth.



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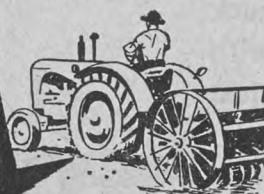
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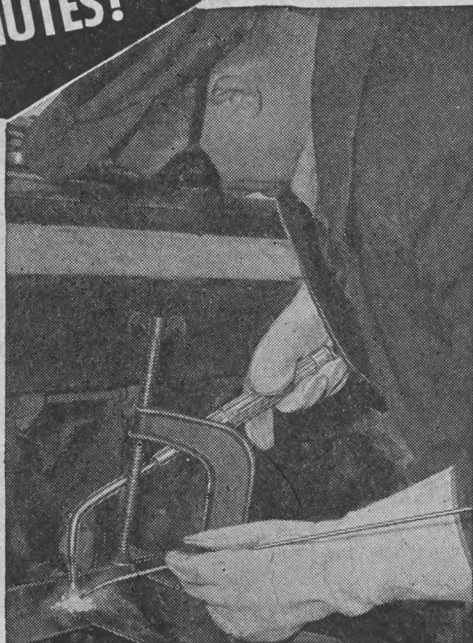
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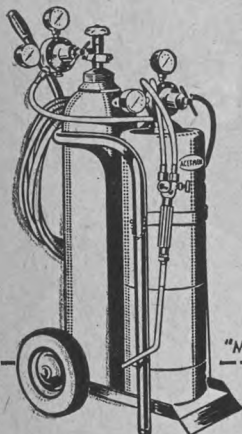


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McCormack, manager at Arctic Bay who had left his wife in charge of the Post there. Before leaving home McCormack had radioed Chesterfield Inlet, 700 miles to the south relaying Tongalok's message that Jack Turner had been severely wounded by gunshot, and from that point the whole world was informed of the accident.

From now on so many conscientious men and women contributed so much of their time and energy to Operation Canon that it is impossible to record the names of all but one, that of Reverend Maurice S. Flint. He deserves mention because of his vitally important assistance early in the rescue operations. A close friend of Jack Turner, one-time missionary on Baffin Island, and chaplain with the Royal Canadian Air Force in wartime, Reverend Flint furnished the rescue squad with invaluable maps and photographs of the rough terrain about Moffet Inlet. Flown to Rivers, Manitoba, Reverend Flint had his pictures projected on a screen and all through one night lectured and "briefed" the picked rescue squad on the weather, the natives, the food and clothing situation, and the extreme difficulties the airmen would have in finding a suitable landing for their large Dakota.

BACK at the Turner mission house Joan heard over her radio that the Canadian government was sending a rescue plane and paratroopers from Rivers some 1,700 miles to the south, and John McCormack with Tongalok and two other sturdy Eskimos he had brought from Arctic Bay emptied the storehouse and built extra bunks there in preparation for the airmen. But Jack's condition was growing worse, his left arm and leg were now paralyzed, and at times he had great difficulty breathing and scarcely ever spoke, although he had recognized McCormack's voice on the Scotsman's arrival and apologized for all the trouble he was causing.

Weeks later Joan wrote of this good friend's ready aid and strength—"It is impossible to convey just what his prompt, ever-ready, practical help meant to me. It will be quite impossible to repay him for all he did."

How anxiously she followed the northward flight of the Dakota as reported over the radio! And how heartbreaking to learn day after day that bad weather was delaying its arrival! This was the period of poor flying weather in the North—fog, wind and snow hampered the flight.

On the fourth of October when Joan awakened at six o'clock and looked at the sky she saw that it was thickly overcast, and it didn't seem possible that the plane could get through today either. Then at noon when the drone of an engine was heard above the clouds and the others raced outdoors expectantly Joan held Jack's hand and prayed.

Much later she learned that in their report the airmen wrote—"Through a hole in the fog the mission was sighted." It wasn't possible for the plane to land but instantly four paratroopers descended.

"They were wonderful! I shall never forget how grateful we were to them!"

Captain Ross Willoughby, a young army doctor, began immediately to work on Jack. Prior to the jump his only information was that the mis-

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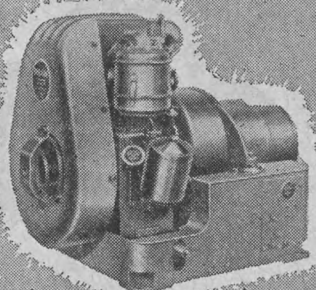
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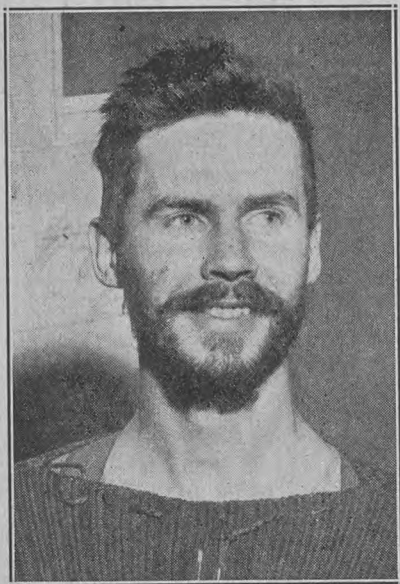


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sionary had been shot in the head. It was not until he examined Jack that the doctor discovered the alarming extent of the wound. Found also the gangrenous sore at the base of his spine two inches deep. This Willoughby had to cut out and treat with penicillin and sulphadiazine knowing that when Jack reached a hospital a skin graft would be made.

"Only the fortitude of his wife saved Canon Turner during the first week after the accident." The young doctor later told newsmen. "She was marvellous."



Captain Ross Willoughby, the doctor who parachuted to Moffet Inlet.

For the other three paratroopers their work had just begun. As Moffet Inlet is north of the magnetic pole compasses were useless, and the first portable radio transmitter dropped was broken on the rocks—the second fell into the sea. To the radio operators, H. C. Cook and W. A. Judd, fell the task of retrieving and repairing the damaged parts to establish contact with the large Dakota circling hour after hour over the mission hoping for news of a successful jump, and elaboration on Jack Turner's condition.

To Captain Guy D'Artois, veteran of many overseas drops and northland rescues went the biggest job—the business of locating a landing site suitable for the Dakota, a machine weighing more than 19,000 pounds with a wing-spread of 95 feet. Flanked by the black mountains on one side and the sea on the other, Jack's evacuation by land seemed hopeless, and aware of the necessity of flying the injured man to a hospital at the earliest possible moment, D'Artois suggested that the patient be moved to Arctic Bay by motor boat. From that point rescue work by plane would be simplified.

PLANS were made for the departure although the weather was very bad and cold. On a homemade stretcher the paratroopers and John McCormack carried Jack from the mission to the 30-foot boat, slipping and stumbling over the rocky ground and breaking through the shore ice. But the ice formed so quickly on the small craft that this means of escape had to be abandoned and Jack was laboriously moved back to the shelter of the little house.

It was up to D'Artois now to find a suitable airstrip—not only did Jack's life depend upon his success but the entire party stationed at the mission was endangered by the fast-approaching winter. So while the two operators

worked on the faulty wireless in an effort to keep contact with the Dakota stationed 750 miles away, D'Artois made reconnaissance trips by dog team—on one occasion falling through the ice and being pulled to safety in the nick of time by an Eskimo companion, but after a change of clothing set off again. They were beginning to arrive now—all Jack's native friends, for news of his accident had travelled to all parts of the island, and they were camped about the shore, and often stood in little groups outside the house, singing the hymns he had taught them, and praying for their teacher.

Finally D'Artois found a small nameless lake (since then named for him) 25 miles from the mission frozen solid enough to hold the heavy plane. For a whole week the captain camped here—two days of that absolutely alone and without food or fuel when a blizzard prevented the Eskimos reaching him with supplies. D'Artois remained rolled up in his sleeping bag until the storm blew over. Afterwards a landing strip with panel markers was made with the aid of the natives and all was in readiness—all but the weather, their terrible enemy.

Repeatedly, hopefully, the Dakota made scouting trips over Moffet Inlet ready to sweep down when informed by the ground crew of favorable landing conditions. Radio operators all over the North made a web to keep both ground and airborne rescue teams informed of ever-changing weather. Within the mission Jack's condition grew worse, and prayer was constantly on Joan's lips as the daylight hours grew inexorably shorter. Very soon now there would be no daylight at all, and if the Dakota did not evacuate them soon the whole party would be imprisoned here until next summer!

Everyone knew this—the natives, the widely scattered operators broadcasting bulletins every hour, the rescuers, and Jack knew it also, and worried about the safety of his family, and the fate of the paratroopers who had risked their lives to come to his aid. But above everything else was his gripping fear that because of his injury he might not be permitted to return to work among the Eskimos he loved and finish his translation of the Bible for them.

IT was 58 days after the accident, on the 21st of November, when Joan rose from the foot of her husband's crude bed where she had slept ever since he was hurt, and the thermometer registered 24 below zero. It was still dark and when she could not see the stars her heart ached with the thought of another stormy day to chain them here. The radio was turned on—it had never been off during all the anxious days and nights—and then suddenly at 8:30 a.m. they heard the wonderful news! The Blizzard Belle, as the rescue plane had been dubbed, was on her way in to pick them up today! The tireless radio operators watching without pause weather conditions, reported temporary clearing over Moffet Inlet district. They must make a dash for escape to D'Artois Lake in the three or four hours of daylight that remained—it was their last chance!

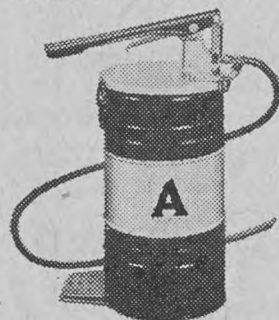
Jack, 70 pounds lighter since the day of his accident, was wrapped in fur robes and blankets and placed on

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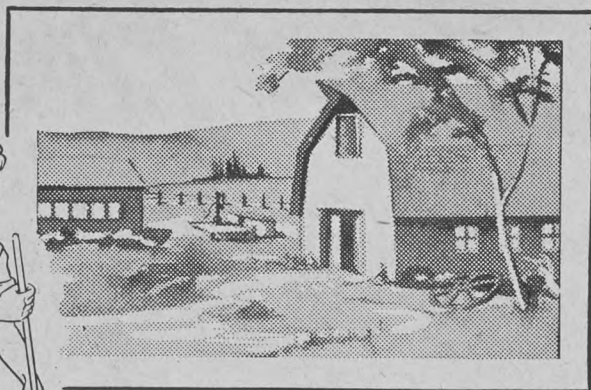
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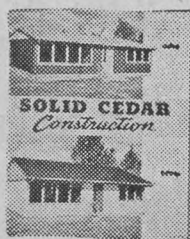
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the lead sled—entrusted to the faithful Pewatok who had reached the mission weeks ago when he learned of the disaster. Doctor Willoughby ran alongside. Two other dog teams followed with the rest of the family and the trip which originally took five hours to cover the rough terrain was today made in three and a half.

It was dark when the party reached the big plane, warmed up and throbbing, eager to get away before another storm prevented the take-off. Tearfully the Eskimos bade the Turner family good-bye and received Jack's final blessing, each whispering to the other—"God be with you until we meet again."

The long flare path was lighted—over the radio came the warning that bad weather was closing in fast, and at 9:40 p.m. one of the most dramatic night take-offs ever attempted was roaring past the bleak black mountains and out over the frozen sea.

BECAUSE of the great weariness and the cold of the passengers, the Dakota was set down at Coral Harbour and the night spent there. At seven a.m. next morning the flight was on again and continued non-stop 1,130 miles to Winnipeg, arriving at 5:00 p.m. where a waiting ambulance whisked the missionary to the hospital while Joan and Rebecca and the little girls found sanctuary in the home of Mrs. W. C. Folliott.

X-ray showed that the bullet had sprayed inside Jack's skull and he developed a meningitis infection so that his condition was too serious to operate, and despite all medical care and 76 days of hard and valiant struggle he died. Maybe he suspected

that partial recovery only was possible for had he lived it would have been as a hopeless cripple with no chance of ever continuing his work in the North.

It was fitting that the brave men who had carried Jack Turner from the 'winter-dark grip of the Arctic should bear his body to its final resting place by St. John's Cathedral in Winnipeg, where so many of the country's intrepid explorers and missionaries are buried.

Joan accepted the Trans-Canada Airways offer of transportation to her parents' home in England, and five days after her arrival there a third daughter was born. Perhaps no one knew better than loyal Rebecca that her adopted mother had only one name for the infant, born as her father had been, after her father's death. The child was called Faith.

In gratefully acknowledging some \$21,000 donated to the Canon Turner Fund organized by the late Doctor H. M. Speechly and others, Joan wrote an open letter to "My Dear Canadian Friends" and said in part—"What makes the gift doubly precious is that it has been given in memory and appreciation of my beloved husband's 18 years of labor for the spread of the Gospel in Baffin Island . . . May his home call be the means of stirring up others to go and carry on the work which meant so much to him and which I too learned to love in the few years I was privileged to be his help-mate."

There appears to be no doubt whatsoever in her mind of the importance of service to others regardless of risk, sacrifice and even death.

"Telling Time"

*If you can't tell the time without a watch
you don't rate mention in this story*

by HARRY BOYLE

OUR kitchen clock has been a "hit and miss" affair for ages. Some days it runs fine, and some days it stops and starts and runs fast or slow depending a good deal on the way it feels. But my wife has long ceased to depend on the clock for time.

In the morning she always knows when it's ten o'clock by the telephone. Just as regular as can be the telephone rings three longs and two shorts as Tabitha Maby calls up Mrs. Higgins for the gossip of the neighborhood. Of course that's the general call for folks on our line to all pick up the receivers and listen. It makes you laugh to see the way they always carefully place one hand over the mouthpiece and then slip the receiver off the hook, so's no one will know they are listening. Yet, everybody on the line knows that everybody else listens.

That's only one example of the ways to tell the time. In the summertime it's gauged by the way the sunlight comes in the windows. It's twelve o'clock when it hits the rug in front of the stove . . . and in the afternoon it's five o'clock when the sun hits that bare, worn spot in front of the side-board.

Have you ever watched a man plowing on a cold, fall day? He'll tramp back and forth . . . back and forth . . . with his head bent to escape the driving force of a cold, fall rain . . . and then you'll see him stop at

the end of a furrow, pull out his watch whether it's going or not, look at the horses, take his hat partly off, and scratch his head, and then make one or two more rounds as the case may be, and unhitch. He'll water the horses, feed them, stop to wash in the back woodshed and be in the house at the stroke of twelve.

Telling the time is a combination of what your inner man and the outer man have to say on the subject. The inner man is clamoring for "vittles" and the outer man watches for the signs.

My grandfather carried a watch every day of his life. He had a little key in a pocket on the bib of his overalls and he religiously used to wind the watch every night when he went to bed. I've often seen someone stop him and say, "What time is it?" He would look at the sky, scratch the side of his head, take the watch out and squint at it for a long moment and then he would tell the time. I never thought anything about it, until one day I noticed that when he told the time there was five minutes difference in what he said and what the watch told. I asked him and he laughed and said, "Heck, boy, I never could tell what a watch tells. I've never been able to read time from a watch in my life. I can tell it within five minutes, but people don't believe you unless they see you looking at a watch."

What is an alloy, Dad?



"An alloy, son, is just a mixture of two or more metals. This 'Monel' line, for instance, is a mixture of nickel and copper. The stainless steel sink in our kitchen is an alloy of nickel, chromium and iron. Mother's white gold watch is an alloy of nickel and gold."



"Why do they mix metals that way?"
 "Simply to make a better metal for some particular purpose. This 'Monel' line, for example, is very strong yet bends easily and most important, it resists rust, even when used in salt water. Mother likes our sink because it is easy to keep clean and always looks bright."



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Livestock Situation

Continued from page 8

\$354,851,000. After making full allowance for depreciation in the dollar value, the United Kingdom's dollar expenditure in Canada is equal to or higher than the prewar dollar expenditure. Since Britain is now spending more dollars here than prewar, you will probably wonder why she is not buying more food products.

One obvious reason is higher prices. Perhaps the best way of illustrating this point is to compare our minimum prices with the United Kingdom-New Zealand 1951-52 contract prices. For beef, butter and cheese, these are comparisons as of June, 1952, the Canadian minimum price being first indicated, followed by the New Zealand contract price to the U.K., basis f.o.b., N.Z. port: Beef—\$25 per cwt., Toronto; N.Z.—\$14.20 per cwt. Butter 58 cents per lb., Toronto and Montreal; N.Z.—35.8 cents per lb. Cheese—24 cents per lb., initial payment f.o.b. factory; N.Z.—19.8 cents per lb.

The real crux of the problem, however, is that Britain must have raw products to maintain industrial production for export trade, if she is to earn more dollars; and she must have raw products, also, for the defence program and her contribution to NATO and the western democracies. To do this, she must allot as few dollars as possible on the purchase of food supplies, so that she can make purchases of priority defence materials obtainable in the dollar area.

This again is a choice of butter or guns. If it were not for the defence program, theoretically at least, Britain would not be short of dollars for the purchase of Canadian foodstuffs.

FROM that general background of the general situation with respect to our two major export products, it might now be worthwhile to review in detail the specific situation of pork and beef.

Early last year, forecasts indicated that with the start of the new fall pig crop in 1951, marketings would be on an appreciably higher scale than for a year earlier. The estimate at that time was for a 15 to 20 per cent increase in the last quarter of 1951 and the first two quarters of 1952. Hog gradings for the last quarter of 1951 were 16 per cent heavier than for the same period of 1950, and gradings in January of 1951 were up 17 per cent over the previous January.

Under the weight of those heavier marketings, prices declined gradually and by early in February had reached a level of \$26 for "A" grade carcasses in Toronto. A year earlier, the price had been \$35.50. The Chicago market, at the same time, for choice live barrows and gilts, was \$18 this year compared to \$23 a year earlier.

To prevent any further depreciation of values resulting from the large volume of marketings reached in February, the government authorized the Agricultural Prices Support Board to support the hog market on the basis of \$26 for Grade "A" carcasses at Toronto. The basis of support was for the Board to underwrite storage stocks. The Agricultural Prices Support Board undertook to buy any cuts then remaining in storage at the end of September at a price equivalent to \$26 for Grade "A" carcasses, plus carrying

charges. The theory of the program was that during the summer the cuts would move out into the domestic or export markets, at prices which would return at least their costs to holders.

The level of marketings, however, soon became heavier than had been anticipated from the earlier forecasts. February gradings were 40 per cent above a year earlier, and by March 1 stocks of pork in storage had reached a total of 24,411,245 pounds, compared with 9,718,121 pounds on March 1, 1951. The capacity of low temperature space in Canadian storage had been pretty well exhausted, and fresh exports had been cut off by the U.S. embargo. It was evident that if the price of hogs was to be supported, the Agricultural Prices Support Board would have to buy the pork in some form in which it could be held, other than in cold storage space. Purchase of canned pork was accordingly begun. Up to July 5, the Board's purchases of this product had reached a total in excess of 37 million pounds, none of which had yet been sold. It is put up under the brand names of the various firms, such as Kam, Klik, Spork, or Prem. It can be held in common storage, of which there is an adequate supply, and it has the advantage that it can be held for a long period, if kept under dry conditions.

IN April, negotiations were opened with New Zealand and Britain for a shipment of Canadian meats to Britain, and the diversion of New Zealand meats to the United States for Canadian account. At that time there was a reasonable expectation that pork, in the form of Wiltshire sides, might be included in the deal; and in April, therefore, a start was made in putting up Wiltshires under the support program. Slightly over 15 million pounds of that product was accumulated. Subsequently, it developed that New Zealand would have no pork this year of a type that could be merchandised satisfactorily in the United States, so that the purchase of Wiltshire sides was discontinued and the purchase of canned pork resumed.

In the meantime, hog marketings continued heavy. From January 1 to the present (early July—ed.), they have averaged about one third heavier than a year ago. If the ratio of marketings compared with last year continues through the summer, there should, theoretically, be enough current hogs over the next three months to take care of the Canadian requirements without drawing at all on storage holdings.

We seem, however, to be enjoying a rather active demand for pork products in Canada, and recently there has been a significant demand for some specialty items such as canned ham for the United States. These canned items are permitted into the U.S. despite the embargo. As a result, storage stocks have been kept down a bit. As of June 1, pork stocks were 18,894,306 pounds, compared with 24,411,245 pounds on March 1, and there should be a further decrease shown as the July stocks are available. The Board is offering its holdings of Wiltshire sides back into the trade, and while this movement has been limited, as yet, there is a reasonable prospect that a good portion of them will be utilized in that way before the summer is over.

FARM BUILDING Ideas

PRACTICAL HINTS
ON MATERIALS AND METHODS

by Allan Hall



When an advertising man wants to emphasize "economy", it seems the popular thing to do is to show a picture of a Scotsman saying "It's thrifty". I don't know where the idea began that Scots are so much more cautious in their spending. In Scotland itself, maybe.

I know that my friend Donald McKay is the best man for telling Scottish jokes in these parts. But contrary to the tales he tells on his own race, Donald's a generous man. But still, not then one to waste money, for all that.

Only last Spring, Donald put a new roof on his home. And for pattern and colour there's nothing smarter in the county. "Some roof-

ings I could of bought cheaper, perhaps," says Donald, "and lots dearer, for sure; but for all-round long-term sensible economy you'll not find a better roof than these same Johns-Manville Asphalt Shingles.

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While it might be best not to be too optimistic, there is at least a fair chance that the storage holdings of pork cuts and Wiltshire sides will be absorbed back into the trade before the next fall marketing season starts. There will, of course, be some loss to the government, and it will be necessary for the Board to continue the purchase of canned pork through the summer to absorb certain slow-moving products and to support the market at the authorized level. Canned pork can probably be merchandised to various outlets over a period of time, but it will likely be at prices which will entail a rather appreciable loss on the transaction.

These losses are probably the inevitable result of the heavy hog crop at a time when both our major historical export outlets were closed to us. It is, indeed, sobering to note that, by all the statistical forecasts, another year of heavy hog marketing is in prospect, starting in October.

In its report for December 1, 1951, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicated that farrowing from December 1, 1951, to May 31, 1952, would be 22 per cent heavier than in the previous year. That, it should be noted, would be a 22 per cent increase over the marketings which we had during the first part of the current year. It will be noted that estimates were based on sows already bred.

The percentage of sows marketed to date this year has been practically the same as a year ago, although again there is some contention that more gilt sows are being marketed. The Department's quarterly pig survey for the past year also indicates an increase of 10.9 per cent of marketings over the same quarter of 1951.

It is evident that so long as the U.S. embargo continues, hog marketings even at the present level will constitute a very serious problem. A further increase in the volume of pork, above the levels of the present pork crop year, will further magnify the difficulties.

We might now turn to beef. Such problems as exist with respect to beef—and they are serious enough in themselves—are purely the result of the U.S. embargo following the foot-and-mouth disease. Without that, there would have been no necessity for price support; and marketings would have continued to follow the pattern which has been developed since restrictions on shipments to the U.S. were removed in August, 1948.

True, prices might not have been as good as last year—Chicago was just under \$30 on good steers on June 21 this year, compared to \$33 a year ago—and some losses might have been taken on steers purchased last year, but those have been absorbed in the normal pattern of trading operations.

The Canadian cattle population on December 1 last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' figures, was about eight per cent heavier than the previous December. That in itself was not serious, although added to the increase in cattle population in the United States, it indicated that the advent of more plentiful beef supplies was not far distant.

Canada normally is dependent on a very considerable export trade in cattle and meat to clear its total surplus. The combined exports of beef cattle and beef in 1951 were equiv-

alent to 166 million pounds of beef, and in 1950, to 219 million pounds.

That trade, both in live animals and in meats, was cut off by the U.S. embargo. By the latter part of April, the price of good steers at Toronto had declined to \$24. At that point, price support was established by the Canadian government, and on April 22 the Minister of Agriculture announced that the Agricultural Prices Support Board had been authorized to set the price of cattle at \$25 for good steers at Toronto. Subsequently, prices at other points were set at \$23.35 at Winnipeg; \$22.80 at Saskatoon; \$22.55 at Calgary and Edmonton; and \$23.40 at Vancouver.

IN the meantime, the negotiations with New Zealand and Britain which were referred to earlier were being carried on and, with respect to beef, were happily consummated. This arrangement will permit of the disposal of some additional quantity of surplus products, but it need hardly be pointed out that some arrangement of this type will be necessary in order to give full effect to the price support program on cattle. If prices are to be supported, it can only be done, in the final analysis, by the government offering to buy products at prices related to floor levels. It would have been physically impossible to support cattle prices merely by the government buying and storing beef, since the necessary storage capacity simply did not exist.

The program, valuable as it is, will still be costly. The New Zealand beef coming to the United States will be frozen beef, and will probably sell at some discount below the price of fresh beef, but it was the most effective arrangement that could be devised to support prices under the dislocation to the Canadian beef and cattle business arising out of the U.S. embargo.

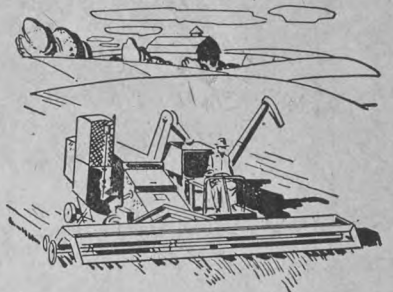
Valuable as this arrangement is proving as a solution of the present difficulties, it would be unfortunate if the impression were gained that it would provide a permanent solution after the U.S. embargo against Canada is lifted. The amount of beef which New Zealand will have left this year to divert to the United States is not now expected to exceed 60 million pounds. That quantity is far short of the average of close to 200 million pounds which has represented the Canadian surplus in recent years, and when that 60 million pounds is shipped, the deal for the present is over.

We are eating into the amount quickly. Less than three months after buying started, well over half of the total quantity which can be shipped under the deal was loaded on steamers, or en route. Beef is still being delivered freely to the Board, and the fall cattle runs are still to come.

It is desirable that the situation should be thoroughly understood, because it points up the fact that has been stressed since the present emergency broke upon us. If stability is to be maintained in the Canadian cattle market until the U.S. embargo is lifted, it is important that cattle raisers co-operate by holding back as many cattle as possible on feed until that time.

(Note: L. W. Pearsall is director, Marketing Service, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.)

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Bee Trouble

Some things are only learned from experience, and how to apply tact and firmness to a colony of bees is one of them

by LUCILLE H. BECKHART

FATHER was determined to keep bees. To the uninitiated, and from distant observation, this should be perfectly simple. You just placed the hive of bees in the back yard and later collected the honey. This at least was our idea. So Father purchased a swarm and had it placed under the cherry tree.

Then our troubles began. Brother and I, ages seven and ten respectively, were afraid of the bees. So was Mother, although she would not admit it. Each time we ventured into the back yard, one of the pesky creatures would buzz unpleasantly about our heads. They seemed to sense our fear of them and lie in wait for us. Father, who was not in the least afraid of them, was for some reason never annoyed, not even stung, by them. It was all a case of psychology, he explained to us. If we were afraid, they knew it and enjoyed our discomfort. If we completely ignored them as he did, the bees would soon cease to try to annoy us.

"But," we always stated, "they will sting us!"

"Not if you stand perfectly still," was his answer.

In spite of his repeated assurance and physical demonstration of this fact, we never quite believed it. To this day we have more faith in the ability of our feet to carry us swiftly away from the predatory insects, than we do in the bee's good nature. Standing still would be tempting a long-suffering providence too far.

One day I made a startling discovery. Not only were we in danger from the live bees, but dead bees also sting. My cousin, who had not even a buzzing acquaintance with bees, was visiting us. By that time I had learned that the bees died after having stung us—a fitting punishment we thought. We had also learned that the business end of the stinging apparatus was located on the underside of the rear end of the insect. Wishing to display my superior knowledge to the cousin, I searched around in the grass near the hive until I found what I supposed to be a dead bee. My cousin warned me that the bee was still alive, and although I thought I knew better, I did not contradict him. By handling a bee that he thought was alive, I could display not only knowledge but a certain amount of courage (which I did not possess). Picking the bee up by its wings, I gingerly turned it over. This brought the stinger into full view. In order to make sure that he had no doubts whatever about the stinger, I placed my forefinger upon it. It promptly stung me. I released the bee with a shriek. Strangely enough, no one would believe my story.

BUT our troubles did not begin and end with being stung. The bees, without any urging on our part would multiply and divide themselves into new swarms. The first such swarm was a complete surprise to us. Hearing a great to-do in the back yard, we rushed out to behold a large swarm of the insects aimlessly flying about. After a great deal of buzzing they settled themselves in a large cluster

on a branch of a tree. Not knowing what to do with them, we did nothing but watch them. They sat there for days. Then one morning they were gone. A little delving into bee literature disclosed the fact that we had let a valuable swarm escape. We should have been prepared with a new hive. Brother and I were perfectly willing to let them escape. But not Father! Seeing a chance to regain his original investment, he purchased an empty hive and we were told to watch for another swarm.

Sitting on the back steps, in danger of being stung, just to have another hive of bees from which to run, did not appeal to us. But when we were told that whoever saw the swarm first would receive the magnificent sum of 50 cents, the danger paled.

A few days later the second swarm materialized. Joyfully we ran to inform Father. He was equal to the occasion, and fearlessly walked up to the large brown cluster of bees. Nonchalantly he sawed off the branch on which they had settled and placed it on the ground in front of an empty hive. We were terrified and fascinated at the same time. The bees buzzed about Father's head, but he paid not the slightest bit of attention to them. Wonder of wonders to us, they did not sting him. After that, Father was little less than an idol to us.

The bees entered the new hive, and we had two swarms. It was as simple as that. Proudly we told the neighbors about it. They informed us that our swarming technique was all wrong. Bees, we were told, were very temperamental. Sometimes as the new swarm emerged from the hive, they would not settle and allow themselves to be hived. They had to be persuaded. The best way to persuade them was to spray them with water. The next best way was to make so much noise with tin covers or pans, that they would become confused and settle on the nearest branch and wait for a new home to be brought to them. The latter idea appealed to us. Eagerly we watched for the next swarm, the 50-cent payment being overshadowed by the prospect of making such a din that we would frighten the bees. We almost missed them since they decided to emerge during lunch hour. When we saw them they were circling about preparing to alight. We burst upon them, beating covers, tin pans, and the bottom of a perfectly good tin dishpan. It did not work. The bees promptly returned to their original hive and remained there. That put an end to our noise making. Father was upset over having lost another swarm and Mother was annoyed by some dents which suddenly and mysteriously appeared on the bottom of her dishpan.

Further delving into bee literature brought forth the fact that the noise was absolutely unnecessary anyhow.

ROBBING the bees of their honey presented new problems. Father was again equal to the occasion. He appeared in what looked like a masquerade costume. Mosquito netting completely enveloped his hat and head. Long rubberized gloves, bor-

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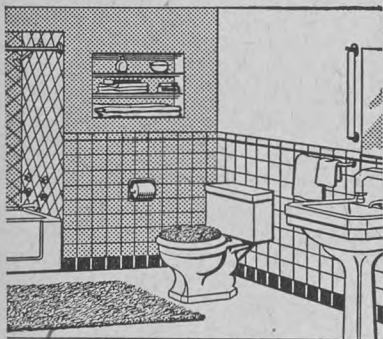
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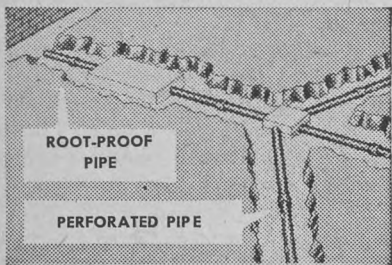
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rowed from a bee-raising friend, reached to his elbows, and in his hand he carried a piece of equipment that belched smoke, which he very fittingly called a "smoker." Despite the angry buzzings of the entire swarm, he skillfully removed the golden combs.

The honey was delicious. Spread, wax and all, over fresh homemade bread, still warm from the oven, it was manna from heaven. Our first taste convinced us that for the time being at least, it was far superior to any jelly or jam.

WE were faced with bee difficulties again at the end of the summer. If they were left out of doors, they would freeze during the cold, northern winter, but we had no desire to move them into the house with us. We asked some more questions and finally elicited the information that they hibernate, but must have some protection. The basement of the house would be an excellent place for them. They must have a fairly cool place, and at the same time be kept in the dark. Fortunately, the basement was divided into three rooms—the farthest and smallest one was not used. This, then, would be the bees' room. Just before the severe cold began, they would be moved down there.

Our weatherman played us false. Father left home on a short business trip and the weather suddenly turned bitterly cold. What about the bees? By that time we had become somewhat attached to them—at a respectful distance, of course. Besides the honey was good, and we would like more of it again next year.

Instead of waiting for Father to return, Mother decided to save them herself. It was strangely quiet around the hives. Perhaps they were all frozen already. Mother lifted the top off one of the hives and saw the bees, apparently lifeless on the bottom. Father would be quite upset, she knew. There was a faint chance that they were not quite dead, and could be restored. Mother was as warm hearted as she was inquisitive. She carried the hive into the house and placed it on the floor by the kitchen range. There was a bare possibility that they might thaw out and be as good as new. They did—with a vengeance. In a short time we heard an angry buzzing, and saw bees beginning to emerge from the opening of the hive into the kitchen. Several escaped before Mother could close the entrance to the hive. She pursued those with a fly swatter, and finally annihilated them, but not before the ungrateful creatures had stung each one of us. The hive was then removed.

The second hive was delegated to the basement without benefit of the kitchen stove, and it survived the winter just as well as did the first. There was the feeling, however, that the bees had taken unfair advantage of us. This episode, needless to say, was not reported to Father.

Many years have passed since the acquisition of the first hive. We still have our bees, and we still firmly believe that we shall be stung whenever we venture out into the back yard. As a matter of fact, we never are, but we attribute that, not to the moral integrity of the bees, but rather to a special providence that watches over all who, blithely and in ignorance, embark on a venture as hazardous as the raising of bees.



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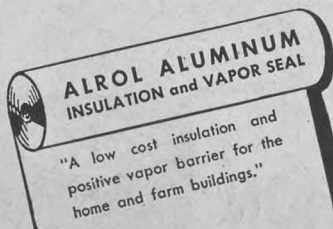
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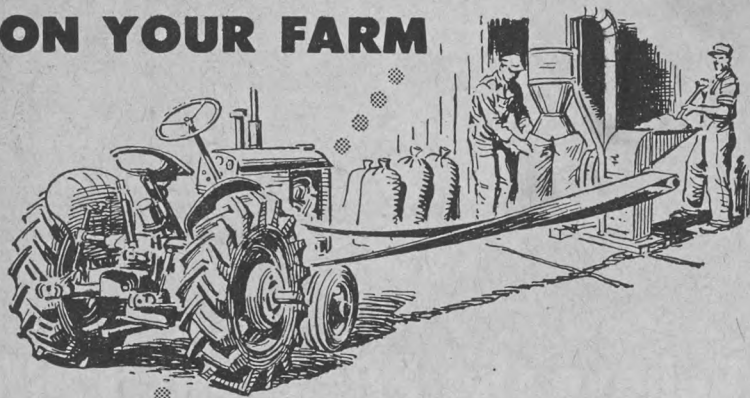
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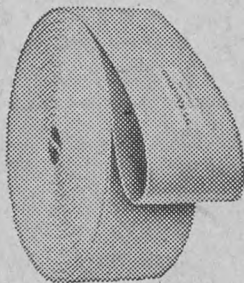


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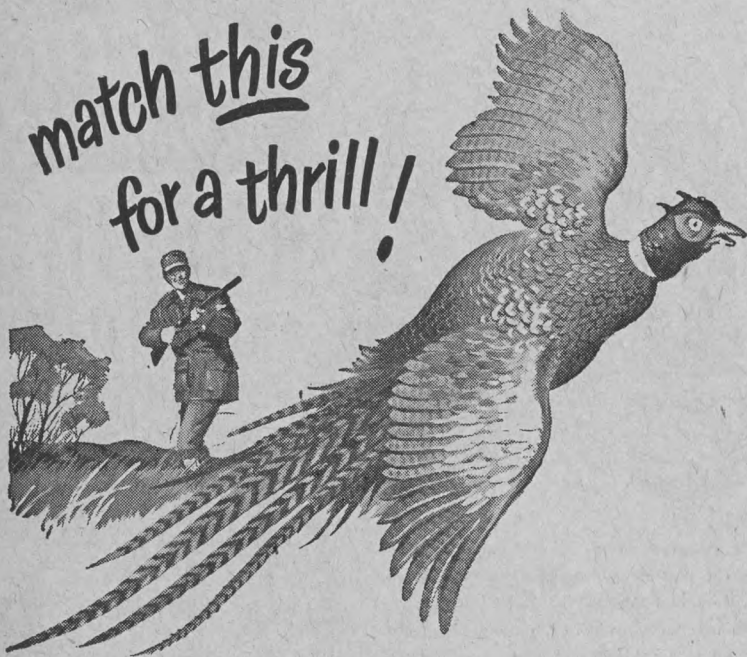


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Tanya

Continued from page 15

attitude. She certainly was making it plain enough that she wanted to be left alone.

"Guess I'll move along then," he said, as he held out his hand. He'd show her he bore her no ill will.

The girl by the fireplace never moved. She kept her hands in the pockets of her coat and ignored his outstretched hand.

"Thank you for all your help," she said, looking levelly at him. "You have been—more than kind. Good-bye, Mac."

McTavish turned without a word and went out through the door, closing it quietly behind him.

MARTHA was waiting for him at the Hatchery. She met him in the doorway and asked eagerly. "Did she come?"

"Yes."

Martha looked excited. Her face was flushed, her eyes bright.

"Oh, Donald you got a telegram. I just had to open it. I thought maybe one of the boys—" The anxiety on his

Ellis is at the Lodge, and then no one can tell him."

McTavish shook his head. "Can't do that now, Martha. Old Wolfe was at the dock when she got off the boat and likely it's all over the village by this time. He don't miss a thing, for all he's so old."

Martha pursed her lips. "He would be there," she said with disgust. "Then there's only one other solution. I'll make them promise me not to tell Joe that she's back. Once they promise they'll keep their word. I never knew one of them to fail me yet. Nothing must spoil Joe's homecoming. He's had enough these last few years without this old grief being dug up."

McTavish felt more hopeful. Martha could swing it. They'd do anything for Martha, who was doctor, advisor and minister to the 30-odd families living around the Bay.

She had brought their children into the world for the better part of 23 years; she had taught them all they know about cleanliness and good cooking and balanced meals.

After the first resentment had worn off they had grown to love and respect the bustling woman with the sharp



"Why, Harold! It's every bit as lovely as the other girls said it was!"

face made her add quickly. "Oh, it's nothing bad. It's from Joe—Joe Quincey. He's coming home with the next trip of the Queen."

McTavish sat down on the nearest chair. Joe coming home! Joe coming back to Pelican Bay—why that was wonderful news! Then he remembered Tanya Ellis. Why had she come back just at this time? Why in heaven's name had she come back at all?

"Why, Donald McTavish, what are you looking so doleful about? Aren't you glad he's coming back? Man, I'm surprised at you. Your face is as long as a mule. You'd think this was bad news, or something." Martha was indignant.

"Of course I'm glad the boy is coming home. I was just thinking it was kinda awkward her being here now. I don't want nothing to spoil his homecoming."

Martha clucked her tongue. "Oh dear, I'd clean forgot her, I was that excited. I've been planning and planning the welcome we'll give him, the band and the flags and the songs, and the big banquet, and wind up with a dance, just like old times. I didn't even remember her. Drat it, Donald, what'll we do?" Her eyes brightened. "I know! There's only one thing to be done. Nobody must know that Tanya

tongue and the kind heart. She had invaded their houses like a tractor in an unplowed field, justifying her actions by repeating energetically that it was no disgrace to be poor, but it was a disgrace to be dirty. Martha's gospel of life was "cleanliness is godliness."

She had talked them into sleeping with their windows open; she had rattled them with her talks about health rules, but as a result, T.B. had noticeably dropped. They had even submitted to inoculation for their children.

No, the Indians wouldn't tell Joe if Martha asked them not to.

McTavish looked admiringly at his buxom wife. "You're a right smart one, Martha girl," he chuckled as he leaned forward and patted her shoulder. "You always was smart."

Martha laughed. "Oh get along with you, you old flatterer," she said in a gentle tone that belied her words. Then she turned with characteristic briskness to the matters at hand.

"Now about the arrangements. We'll get the Reverend and his wife, the Birds, Hollinses, Robertsons, the Wolfes, and the Shortings over here, and we'll make our plans together. Imagine Joe coming home after four years of Overseas service. Four years

is a long time, 'specially over there. We'll have to give him a right royal welcome." Then she sighed a little. When would her own two boys be coming back? It seemed a long time since they had last been home.

"Couldn't we have ice cream, Donald? The kiddies wouldn't think it complete without that. They'll have a school holiday, of course. I'll speak to the teacher."

The holiday was a settled thing right then and there. If Martha decided there should be a holiday, a holiday there would be.

"Sure we'll have ice cream. We'll see to it that no returning airman will get a better reception from his hometown than our Joe. I'll have to drop over to see Angus. I'll bet he's the happiest fella in Pelican Bay right this minute."

MARTHA reached for her cookbook from its corner on a top shelf, her mind busily selecting her choicest recipes. McTavish left the kitchen and walked inside.

The kitchen door opened gently and Martha turned around. A tiny little Indian woman stood in the doorway, beaming a toothless grin, her leathery-brown face creased in a thousand wrinkles. She was incredibly old and incredibly ugly.

"Day, day," she greeted Martha.

Martha greeted her in Cree.

"Good day, Old One, come in. I have good news. Our Joe is coming home to Pelican Bay!"

She helped the old woman into a comfortable rocker and repeated her statement. "Joe Quincey is coming home to Pelican."

The old woman had a remarkably keen mind, but her hearing seemed a little poor at times.

She half closed her eyes and rocked gently back and forth.

"So," she said slowly, "the son of the fur trader is returning? So—so—. Great is the rejoicing in the heart of the daughter of Beaver. So—he is returning to his father's teepee—that is good. Many clouds will roll from the heart of our good friend the fur trader."

"Yes, Old One, he has much to be thankful for."

Martha put the kettle on to boil. Anytime was tea time for the Old One who liked it very black and strong as a witch's brew. No use explaining to her about Joe's decoration. She would never understand.

The old woman lit her pipe and rocked back and forth in contentment, meditating deeply.

Martha had talked every other woman in Pelican out of the pipe-smoking habit except the Old One.

Her fastidious Scotch soul revolted at the idea of a woman smoking a pipe, but in the Old One, she had met her Waterloo.

The two women were great friends and had been so, since the night when Rob had lain gasping for his life in the throes of the dread diphtheria. It was the Old One, stoical and calm, who sat beside her all night helping her, steadying her in her darkest hour. Martha had never forgotten that night, and she felt forever in debt to the old woman.

"So," the Old One repeated for the fifth time. It was one of the few English words she managed to remember, and it delighted her to use it often. "He returns again, our Eagle of the skies." She nodded her head several times and said in a mysterious voice. "Last night White Crane dreamed."

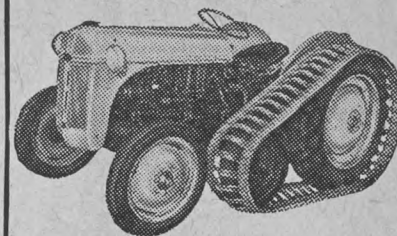
White Crane was the name the Old One had been given at birth.

"It was a strange dream," she repeated in a low sing-song tone almost as if she were speaking to herself.

Martha poured the tea into a huge mug. The Old One liked her tea in large quantities and had been known to drink seven mugfuls in succession. She sat down at the corner of the table and passed her guest the sugar and biscuits. She herself was a firm

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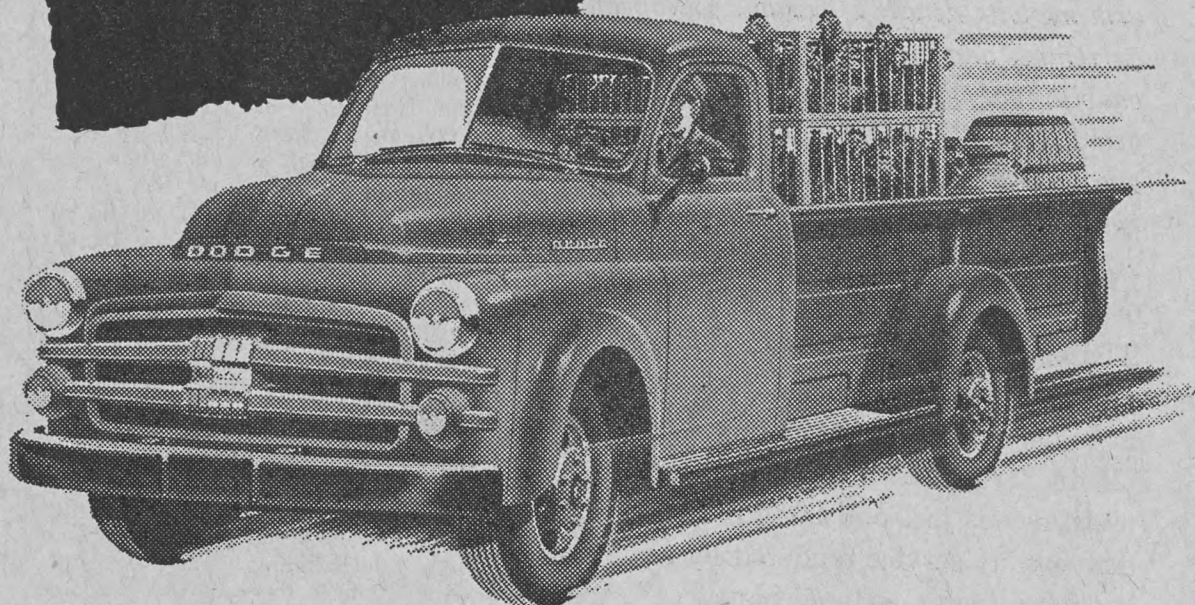
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believer in dreams, and the Old One had often had remarkable visions.

"What did you dream?" she urged.

The old woman loved to be coaxed. She took a generous mouthful of tea and drank it noisily. It was quite to her liking and she nodded her approval.

"This is good. Many cups has White Crane had, but the cup served by the hand of a friend tastes the best."

"What did you dream about, Old One?" Martha asked again.

The old eyes narrowed until the wrinkled eyelids almost closed.

"Last night White Crane dreamed. White Crane stood on the cliff and looked to the south where the sun travels in the summer.

"The sky was blue and the sunshine was warm like the blood of the young and the lovely. White Crane stretched out her arms to the sun, to feel its warmth, when suddenly a black cloud seemed to rise up from the water and roll with the speed of a demon to Pelican Bay."

She stopped. Martha let her tea grow cold as she listened. A black cloud! That meant dark trouble. Oh Lord, keep her boys safe, keep all the boys safe wherever they were. Martha felt a slight chill come over her.

The black eyes opened suddenly and the Old One grinned her toothless grin. "My friend need have no fears. It was not for her."

The Old One took another noisy sip of tea and went on with her story. "The cloud was black-black as the forest at midnight, dark and angry like a winter storm. White Crane watched it and wondered.

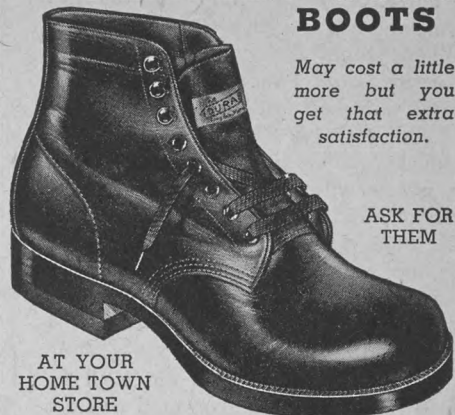
"Then something came darting out of the cloud. It was a bird, a little grey dove. Its wing was hurt. It darted back and forth, uttering little frightened cries. White Crane called, 'Little grey dove, come to White Crane, White Crane will help you,' but it did not hear. It darted back and forth and seemed about to light on the cliff, only to take to its wings again.

"Then out of the clouds swooped a vulture, its claws and bill ready to snare the frightened dove that was fluttering about in such fear. White Crane cried aloud, but she could not help the little bird. She was too far away. The little grey dove darted out of reach of the claws of the vulture and flew northward, but the vulture followed.

"For a long time White Crane watched them and prayed to the Great Spirit to save the little wounded dove. Once again the vulture swooped, and once again the grey dove flew southward straight to the cliff White Crane was standing on. White Crane saw the wild fluttering of the little wings, the terror in the eyes that implored her for help. They flew past and once more the vulture swooped. White Crane gave a cry.

"Then—out of the clear blue sky soared an eagle. A king of all eagles was he, fierce of eye and keen to battle, big and strong and fearless. His eyes saw the two below him pitched in uneven battle. He hovered in the air but an instant, then he sailed swiftly downward on his broad wings right on the back of the unsuspecting vulture and bore him downward. Down, down they fell, until they reached the water. Then the vulture suddenly darted north-

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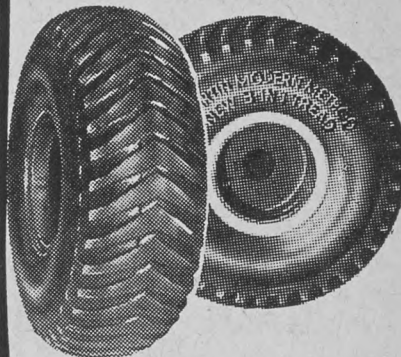
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ward followed by the eagle and they disappeared from sight.

"The little grey dove was flying about uncertainly, tired unto death, yet fearful to stop. Time after time she sank in the air, and time after time White Crane urged her on. At last the dove reached the safety of the cliff, and settled on the ground at the very feet of old White Crane."

The old woman stopped. She was smiling to herself. The wrinkled face wore a mystic look. "The eyes of the little grey dove were filled with fear, her breast heaved with weariness as she looked northward where the eagle and the vulture had disappeared."

"Which one would return — the vulture or the eagle?"

"Long they waited and at last a speck appeared in the sky."

"The eyes of the grey dove and the eyes of White Crane watched the victor coming closer and ever closer. Which one—ah—which one—it was too dark to see."



"I use the knotted pair on dry cows and heifers just to keep 'em in the mood."

"Which one returned?" Martha asked breathlessly.

The old woman shook her head. "White Crane could not see."

"Old One," she said softly. "Old One, is the eagle our Joe?"

The Old One opened her eyes, a crafty look spreading over her face.

"Ah, who can say?" she murmured, "who can say? The goddess of dreams does not reveal everything."

She drained the mug and passed it to Martha.

"More tea for White Crane, Miz' Matavish."

Martha picked up the teapot. The Old One had said all she intended to say. The Old One knew for whom the dream was meant, she always did, but she wasn't telling. It was maddening not to know.

There was a mixture of humor and exasperation in the eyes of Martha McTavish as she looked at her friend. The Old One was the only Indian for miles around that she could not manage. One way or the other, they all took her advice and followed it, all but this wizened little creature, who looked fragile enough to be bowled over by a breeze. Yet under that fragility was a strong will, a bold and fearless spirit, as Martha had learned often in the past. She always seemed to come out second best in a bout with the Old One.

Martha patted the old woman's knee with an affectionate hand.

"You are a wise person," she said, "and my best and truest friend."

The old woman grinned her toothless grin and held out the empty mug. "More tea," she cackled, "more tea to warm the bones of old White Crane."

IN the city Evelyn Winspear was sitting in her living room reading the paper.

Her mind was not on her reading, for she was thinking of Tanya out at the Lodge far from everyone, alone with her bitter memories.

Oh they should never have let her go to Pelican Bay. It had been madness on their part. But then, one could not tell a grown woman what she must or must not do.

Evelyn sighed a little.

"Dear," her husband's voice came from behind his newspaper, "that is the third time you have sighed in the last five minutes. Will you stop worrying about Tanya and try to realize that she has been looking after herself for years and is still capable of doing so?"

"But, George, she is not capable of looking after herself when she is ill, mentally ill, and it is useless to tell me not to worry. She's my sister and her troubles are mine."

George put his paper down and took off his glasses.

"Please try to be sensible. Tanya is not mentally ill. She has a problem to face that neither you nor I nor anyone can help her solve and she must be left alone to face it by herself and work out her own solution. I think she was wise in wanting to be alone to think things out, but I wish to heaven she had gone to any other place but Pelican. The Scotch and the Indians have this much in common, they have memories like an elephant and never forget a wrong. They might make things unpleasant for her, and she has enough on her mind now."

"If they dare treat her unkindly I shall have something to say about it." Evelyn spoke grimly.

"Now don't start worrying about something that may never happen. You worry enough as it is. Tanya will be all right. She's made of good stuff and she'll come through."

He went back to his paper and Evelyn did the same.

If anyone said one word to Tanya, if Mac and Martha dared to so much as hint that Tanya wasn't welcome at Pelican she'd never forgive them. George should have disregarded Tanya's wishes and told them just how things were in his letter.

She had a sudden inspiration. Why not write them herself? She had made no promise to Tanya.

Yes, she would write herself and George need never know.

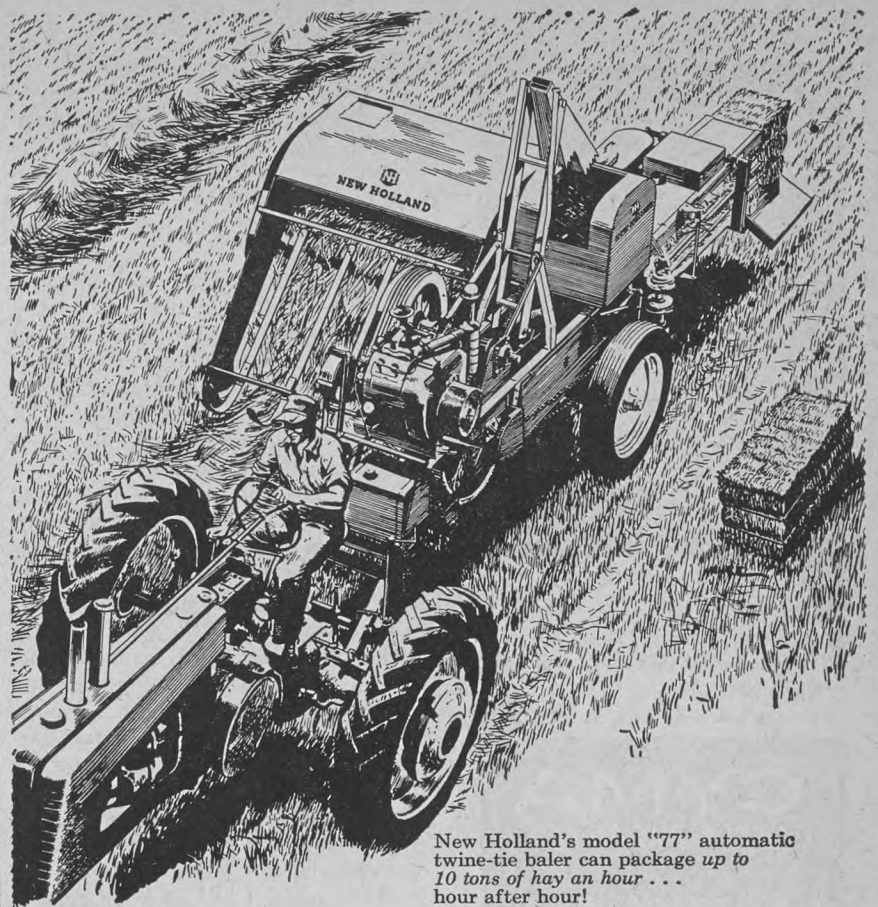
She turned the page and the picture of a familiar face caught her eye. She looked closely at it and read—

F/L Joseph Quincey, D.F.C., recently released from hospital where he had been undergoing treatment for wounds received while on active service, is homeward bound on board the liner *Letitia*. F/L Joseph Quincey is the son of Angus Milton Quincey, of Pelican Bay, Lake Winnipeg.

There was more but Evelyn did not read it. The words danced before her eyes and she put down the paper.

"Good heavens, George," she cried, "Joe is on his way to Pelican Bay, and Tanya is there. What shall we do?"

THE news that Joe Quincey was coming back to Pelican Bay threw the whole village into a state of great excitement. The men on the fishing boats talked of little else as they made their daily trip to the fishing grounds, to set their nets or bring in the catch. The shorehands, filleting the fish on



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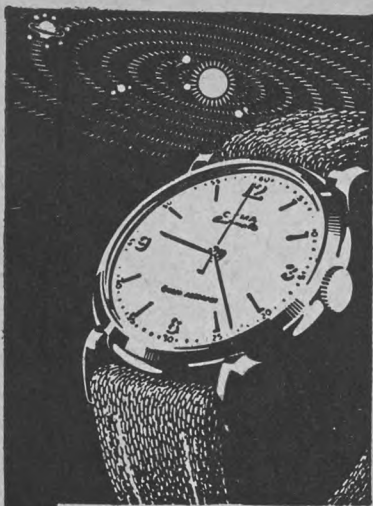
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shore, discussed the arrangements for the reception. Even the older men, as they mended the nets, or spread them on the drying reels, talked of the coming party with enthusiasm.

Word was sent to the trappers in their isolated cabins, and they came in their beaded buckskins, coonskin caps, and gaily colored sashes, eager to enjoy the last dance before the long hunting season began. They came in canoes, or motorboats, loaded down with children, dogs, tents, supplies, and a cook stove. One and all dropped in at the Hudson's Bay Post to rejoice with Angus.

Martha had already informed Miss Glover, the teacher who was boarding at the Hatchery, that there would be no school the day Joe came home, and Miss Glover did not argue the point.

They would meet the *Queen* at the dock with flags and banners and speeches, then all would gather for the sports and wind up with a supper and dance in the hall. Luther Fisher was put in charge of the band for he had been a veteran of the First World War, and knew all about the proper way to welcome a returning soldier, or so he claimed.

The Ladies' Club took charge of the refreshments and everyone was asked to donate something, even those who could ill afford to give anything, for Martha said it would never do to leave anyone out or feelings would be hurt. The scouts and guides decorated the hall after it had been thoroughly scrubbed from end to end. All was in readiness.

Martha was a busy woman these days and gave little thought to the girl at the Lodge.

The Indians had been cautioned not to mention her name to Joe and each one had promised to be as silent as the grave, and Martha fondly hoped that Tanya would leave before long and Joe need never know she had ever come back to Pelican Bay.

The *Northland Queen* brought mail and supplies to the residents twice a week, and the following Thursday brought mail for Tanya. There was a letter to Martha but she was too busy to read it and put it on her pantry shelf in front of the coffee pot where she would be sure to see it.

MARTHA was in happy frame of mind these days, anticipating Joe's return and was ready to forgive the very devil himself if need be, so she packed a basket of fresh bread and milk and eggs and a fine cake for Mac to take to Tanya when he delivered her mail.

McTavish was in a quandary.

He couldn't tell Martha how ungraciously the girl had behaved and yet if he sent someone else with her mail, Martha would suspect that something was wrong and she would never give up until she had wormed the truth out of him.

He certainly didn't want to go to the Lodge where he was unwelcome, but he could see no way out of it and finally started the *Jolly Canuck* and headed north in a great fury.

He had made up his mind to put the stuff on the back porch and go quietly away without letting her see him, but Tanya had heard the *Jolly Canuck's* engine and opened the door just as he was putting the box on the porch.

She looked quickly at the box then at him and stepped out.

"You were not going to come in," she said in a low voice. "I don't blame you, Mac. I must have hurt you very much the last time you were here. You see I haven't become used to it yet, the sight of people recoiling in horror from something that is unusual and ugly, and I think only of hiding it."

"What do you mean, Tanya?"

Tanya drew her right hand slowly out of her pocket and held it out for him to see.

"Not a pretty sight, is it, Mac? Do you wonder that I hate to put people through the unpleasant effort of touching it?"

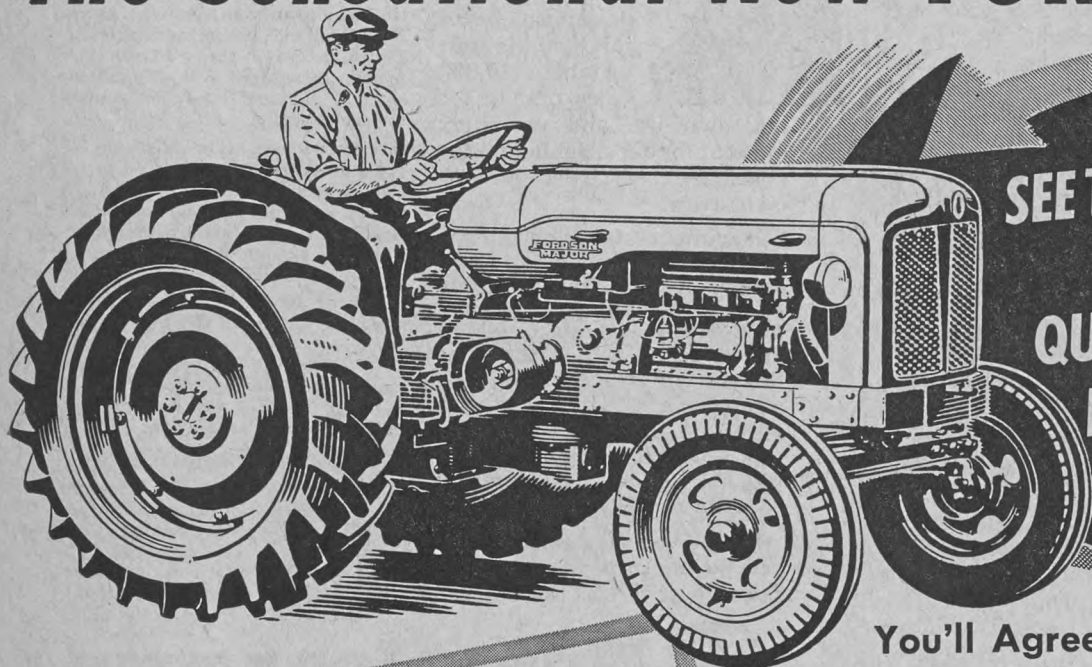
The four fingers were missing. There was nothing there but red, ugly stumps and one lone thumb that seemed grotesquely long.

McTavish took her hand in his and closed his fingers in warm clasp. There was a feeling of tightness in his throat.

"I shall always be glad to shake your hand, my dear," he said huskily. "I don't think it's ugly at all and neither should you. If you can forget about it yourself so will others."

Tanya laughed. "That's what they told me at the hospital. I must forget my deformity and try not to hide it from strangers. I did try, but when I found the salesgirls in the store staring and forgetting to give me my parcel, or the nudges and whispers of the people on the streetcar, I couldn't forget. How could I when others were constantly reminding me of it? Isn't it strange how fascinated people can be by deformity, yet shrink from it at the

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same time? Even my friends, wanting to be tactful, made it so obvious that I knew they too found it distasteful."

"You should have known that I would not mind your hand."

Tanya sat down beside him, hugging her knees.

"I realized that after you had gone, but it has become almost an instinct to hide from other's eyes what I cannot bear to look at myself. But there. I came out here to forget. Here I can be myself and if I want to get up at night and go for a walk there is nobody lying awake worrying about where I have gone and when I'll come back. I'm glad I came out to the Lodge. I think I'll stay until the snow falls. I hate to think of going back to Winnipeg."



"She put her foot in the milk sir, so I'm running it through again."

McTavish felt dismayed. How could they keep Joe from finding out that she was here? It would be simple if he just told her that Joe was coming home, but he felt reluctant to do that. She'd leave at once. She was happy here and maybe the peace and solitude would help her. On the other hand, Joe's home-coming mustn't be spoiled by any unhappy memories of the girl he had loved and hated.

McTavish looked at the girl beside him staring intently at the river. There was something about her that moved him deeply and he found himself wishing that he could comfort and help her, but he was a man of few words, and all he could do was offer her his silent sympathy.

EVELYN WINSPEAR and her daughter Penny were cleaning the silverware at the kitchen table in preparation for their dinner guests. It was long since they had had anyone in for a meal, and Evelyn was looking forward to the evening with pleasure.

Then her conscience smote her.

Poor Tanya. It was because of her that they had stopped asking anyone in, for Tanya could not bear to let anyone see the humiliation she suffered at mealtime. Her food had to be cut into small particles as if she were a child of two, and she still found it awkward to handle a fork or a spoon in her left hand.

Evelyn could not deny to herself that it was much easier, now that Tanya wasn't in the house, but she felt badly about feeling relieved.

"When is Aunt Tanny coming back?" Penny asked.

"I don't know, dear. Whenever she gets lonely and wants to see us again. She didn't say how long she intended to be at the Lodge. I hope I hear from her soon."

"Aunt Tanny wasn't very happy with us, was she, mother?" Penny went on. "She often pretended to be sleeping when you had visitors, I

know because I saw her go to her room just before you called her, and I knew she couldn't fall asleep that fast. Why did she do that?"

"She didn't want people to see her hand, dear. Now get on with your polishing or you won't have it done in time for dinner."

But Penny was not to be side-tracked.

"She used to talk a lot in her sleep, didn't she? I could hear her plainly because her bed is right against my wall. She said the funniest thing too. One night she said over and over again, 'Kill him, kill him.' Did she kill anyone, Mother?"

Evelyn's face was white. "Penny, you let your imagination run away with you. Of course Tanya never killed anyone. Even if she said that in her sleep that doesn't mean a thing. People repeat all kinds of silly remarks they have heard on the radio or read in a book. Don't you ever say such a thing again."

Penny polished the silver vigorously.

There was something about Aunt Tanya that she didn't know about, something strange, but her parents evaded all the questions she asked and her mother got angry if she talked about Tanya's queer behavior.

Why did she leave the house so often at night and why did Daddy follow her? She knew that her father had spoken to the policeman on the night beat, because she had seen them talking together and she heard the policeman say, "Sure I'll keep an eye on her."

And her mother was wrong in saying that Tanya repeated something she heard on the radio. She said it often, too often for it to be nonsense.

At the Hudson's Bay house, Angus Quincey sat near the open window of his living room.

He felt at peace with the world as he rocked slowly back and forth, thinking about his son.

It was good to know that the lad was homeward bound. He had missed him more than he had thought possible, just as he had missed his mother when she died.

After Kathleen was married he had lived alone at the Post and he had often been lonely.

Now Joe was coming home again after years of Overseas duty.

No one knew how often he had wondered if Joe would ever come back to him. He said so little in his letters to his father and never once had he mentioned the name of any girl.

Angus' face clouded.

Did Joe still think of the girl he had loved for one short summer, the girl from the Lodge? He couldn't say, for Joe was so reserved no one knew what he thought of or dreamed about. So much time had passed since that summer. He need not worry about her. She would never come back to Pelican Bay, and she and Joe would never meet again. Maybe some day Joe would find a girl who would take her place and give him the happiness he deserved.

At the Hatchery Martha too was rocking back and forth beside the kitchen stove, as she read the letter from Evelyn Winspear.

"Oh my God!" she moaned aloud. "May heaven forgive me for being so uncharitable. May heaven forgive me."



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THURSDAY dawned with clear skies and a warm sun. The residents of Pelican Bay were up early for this was the day Joe Quincey was coming home.

The *Northland Queen* would arrive at one in the afternoon and the captain had promised to blow the whistle three times at Sandy River to give everyone a chance to assemble at the pier in time for the boat to dock. Sandy River was a scant three miles away and the deep mournful whistle of the *Northland Queen* could easily be heard to Pelican Bay.

At twelve o'clock the children were dressed and threatened with dreadful punishment if they soiled their clothes. No ice cream for those who got dirty. At the last minute the rags were taken out of the little girls' hair and the babies were dressed.

At the Hatchery, Ralph Collins, the forest ranger, and McTavish packed the salt and ice on the last keg of ice cream. This was one time when every kid could make himself sick if he chose. There was enough ice cream there for an army.

In his house at the Hudson's Bay Post, Angus Quincey paced up and down the floor of the living room. Joe was coming home today. It was hard to believe that in less than an hour he would be seeing his son after such a long, anxious time of waiting.

In spite of his happiness, his thoughts were a bit anxious. Would the boy be changed, or would they be able to get on the same friendly footing they had enjoyed in the past? No one returned from war without bearing scars, mental or physical.

Angus had been mother and father to his two children, Kathleen and Joe, since Joe was born. He had not been a young man when he married and he had not known much about bringing up children, but he had tried to do his best.

Now, Kathleen—Angus picked up her picture and looked fondly at it, she was full of laughter and fun, her face frank and open and as easy to read as a book. There were no secret corners in her soul that he could not read. But Joe was so different from his sister. He had contented himself with loving the boy without ever understanding him.

Angus had worshipped his young wife with a deep and abiding love that a mature, passionate man gives to a young and lovely woman. That love he transferred to her children after she was gone. Their happiness had been short—only five years, and her death had almost cost him his reason.

Angus sighed. Kathleen was her mother all over again in her ways, but Joe—Joe had her features—her eyes—her sensitive, shapely mouth—her coloring, but he was grave where she had been gay.

She was such a happy little thing, singing all day long, but she seemed to change before Joe was born. She became mysterious, secretive even, when she carried him, and Angus had known jealousy for the first time in his life, jealousy of an unborn child.

She spent most of her time in the woods wandering about by herself for hours and she only laughed when he questioned her about where she had been and what she had been doing. Once she had said, "Angus, I was talking to my little son. I was teaching

him the language of the woods; what it was that the pines whisper to one another in their soft rustling voices; what the brook murmurs as it hurries by. I told him many secrets, oh so many secrets of the little people of the forest, and he will understand and love them all. And now I am tired."

One cold summer night Joe was born and she had died and the world became dark to Angus Quincey. He hated the child then, that strong, healthy boy child who had robbed him of the only happiness he had ever known. He had been a lonely and solitary man until her coming.

Her words had come true. Joe had loved and understood the creatures of the woods, had spent most of his boyhood roaming through the forest, or following the river for miles and miles, coming home late, his little face shining with secret pleasure.



"But, Maw, I've been pitching hay all day... I'm tired of using a fork."

Angus Quincey looked at the picture of his son. Now he was a grown man; he had been away to war and he was coming home again to his forest.

How Joe must have hated war and all it meant. He must have hated the idea that he was taking the lives of others in order that he might live; he must have hated the destruction he wrought, the misery left in his wake. None of these things had he mentioned in his letters, yet his father knew it was so. Would he be changed, very much changed, or would the spell of the forest be able to erase the memories of war, and reach out to claim him once more for its own?

THE crowd was already assembled at the dock when he arrived. Excitement ran high. McTavish met him. "Oh, Angus, man, I'm glad you're here. She blew at Sandy River ten minutes ago and she'll be roundin' the bend any time now. Martha was going to send a search party for you."

One of the restless little boys saw him and whispered to his neighbor, "Let's give old Angus a cheer. Three cheers for Angus Quincey!" he piped out and the crowd took it up. Angus was a favorite with young and old alike; stern he might be and sour-looking, but many a family had been grateful for his helping hand, when furs were scarce and times were hard, and many a child remembered the candies old Angus had slipped them "for free."

Angus Quincey's face relaxed into a smile as he acknowledged the cheer with a nod of his proud old head. It was kind of them to do this for his boy and he was grateful. He would have liked to tell them so but he, like McTavish, was no hand at words.

His keen eyes scanned the waters at the point. Ah! there she was, the *Northland Queen* steaming full speed

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ahead around the point. The whistle blew loud and long; the people on the pier burst into excited talk. Joe! Joe Quincey! Soon he would be among them—their own Joe who had shaken hands with the King of England!

On the top deck of the *Northland Queen*, Joe Quincey got to his feet at the sound of the whistle.

The captain approached him, smiling broadly. "Well, Joe, I guess you're pretty glad to see the old Bay again. It's been a long time since you went away. Quite a crowd at the dock."

Joe's dark eyes swept the shoreline. The white cliffs gleamed in the sun, the trees seemed taller than ever. There was the Post, his home, the Hatchery—the school house had been repainted. He breathed deeply of the cool, fresh air.

Joe stared at the crowd assembled on the pier. "Welcoming me home?" he said in surprise.

The captain laughed and slapped him on the back. "And how! This place has been like a madhouse since your telegram came. Every last person for 30 miles around is in Pelican today to meet you. And say, they've got the best reception planned. I heard all about it." He prodded Joe's arm. "Wave at them, Joe. Go on, boy, can't you hear them cheering for you?"

Joe Quincey, standing tall and straight and handsome in his officer's uniform, shifted his coat to his left arm and raised his hand.

The *Queen* was drawing into the harbor. The crowd went wild. Joe's eyes swept the faces turned up to him. There was his father.

Joe threw his coat to the outstretched hands below; his long legs swung over the deck railing and he stepped down to the dock. The noise was deafening as the crowd pressed closer around him. Joe reached his father and gripped his hand in both his own. "Dad! Dad! it's so good to see you! You don't know how good it is to see you again!"

Angus looked into the eyes of his son. For once they were not veiled and unreadable. His fears were groundless. Joe would be all right. He put his arm around his son and said gruffly, "It's good to see ye, lad."

That was the end of their conversation. Joe's hand was seized by McTavish. "Joe, my boy. Welcome home. I'm sure glad to see you back."

"Mac—" Joe's eyes were warm. "You look just the same as you always did. And, Martha."

She put her arms around him and sniffed, "Welcome home, my dear boy, the best welcome home anybody ever got."

Somebody thumped his back. He turned. "John Wolfe— how are you— and Ralph Collins— it's good to see you."

They shook his hand until it ached; they slapped his back until it was sore and they cheered themselves hoarse, these good people of Pelican, as they rejoiced with the Quinceys in their reunion. They showed their happiness in childish ways, perhaps, but no one would have questioned their sincerity.

There was no "O Canada" sung—there was no welcoming speech. All formality was forgotten in the excitement of having Joe in their midst. Luther Fisher was disgusted. After all his careful planning and all his work the whole thing wound up like a Saturday night brawl. He felt a bit mollified when he heard the band



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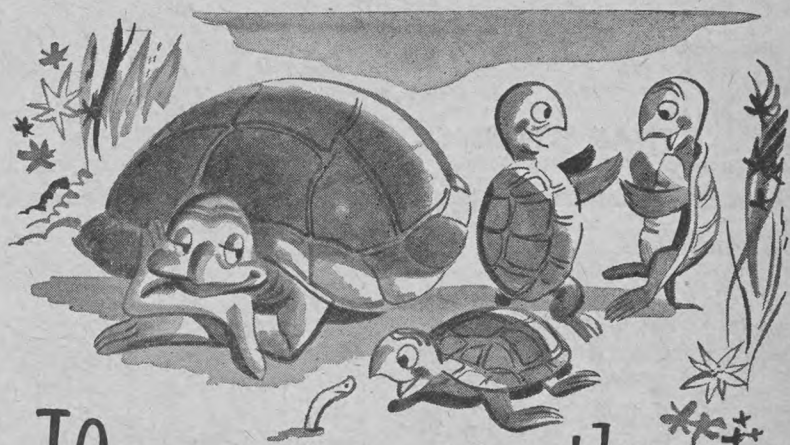
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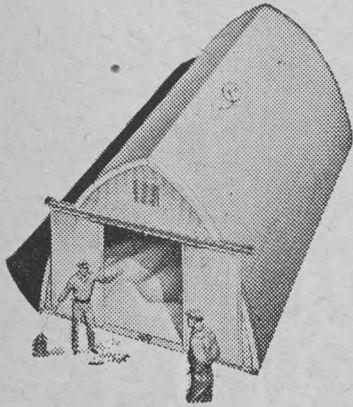
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music coming faintly through the roar. Well, anyway the band had done their part.

They hoisted Joe on their shoulders, then Angus and the crowd moved slowly down the pier, cheering lustily.

"Welcome home, Joe!—Welcome to Pelican Bay! Three cheers for Joe Quincey! Three cheers for Angus!"

They put him down when they reached the field by the hall. Joe saw the banner and he drew himself stiffly erect and saluted the two scout captains. Very gravely they returned the salute, standing like ramrods in perfect imitation. Joe laughed and walked toward them. "Hello, Ernie; hello Roy," he spoke in Cree. "That was a smart salute. It was the best I've seen."

The boys beamed with pride. "We been practicing many days," Ernie said shyly.

The crowd closed around him and Joe greeted them one and all.

Angus stood back watching his son with pride. The boy was entering into the spirit of the occasion. He had changed after all. He had learned a lot. Had this been four years ago, Joe would have been stiff and silent with embarrassment, waiting for the first opportunity to slip away.

Ralph Collins finally pushed his way to Joe's side. "Joe, we're starting off with races. The children will be first, of course, and you, as our honored guest, have been chosen to hand out prizes. The kids are wild to start."

Joe nodded and turned to a tall old Indian standing silently by. His eyes lit up with pleasure.

"Fleetfoot, the friend of my boyhood!" he said softly in Cree. "Many suns have set since we two last hunted the beaver together. How is it with you, my friend?"

Fleetfoot put out his hand in the whiteman's custom of greeting. His face was dark and inscrutable. "Welcome, oh son of the fur trader and friend of Fleetfoot. The heart of Fleetfoot rejoices to see you return once more to the lodge of your father. Fleetfoot prayed to the Great Spirit for your return. The Great Spirit has answered." It was the longest speech he had ever made in his life.

JOE took his place on the decorated platform and watched the children. He felt deep contentment being here among his old friends. Their welcome touched him. This was his place; these were his people, simple and child-like in their ways, finding happiness in small things, asking very little of life. He felt a light touch on his shoulder. He turned and looked up into the face of Willow Lebat.

"Why, Willow—Willow Lebat!" His eyes swept the dimpled cheeks and roguish eyes, the trim, slender figure of Willow and he whistled in appreciation. "You're a big girl now, Willow; quite a smooth dish too, if I may say so. The last time I saw you, you were all legs, like a colt."

Willow laughed, showing even, white teeth. She recognized that look in his eyes. She had seen it often before in the eyes of other men.

"Joe, it is good to see you. You staying here long?" she asked eagerly.

"Yes, Willow, I am staying—for quite a while. My father and I are going to catch up on four years' conversation. I'll be the laziest fellow in Pelican Bay, loafing around and doing nothing."

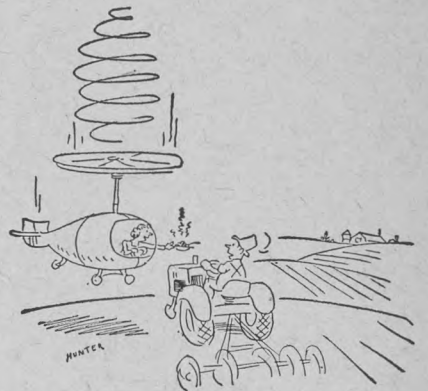
Willow's eyes sparkled. "You take me on the river on your boat sometime, maybe?"

"Sure, I'll be glad to take you on my boat any time you say."

Willow drew in her breath, her lips rounded. "Oh—boy—it's a date!"

Willow was half French and half Cree. She had inherited the vivacity of her French father as well as a certain shrewdness of character.

She wanted Joe Quincey and she meant to get him. She knew that the very moment she caught sight of him



"Your hot lunch, dear."

standing tall and handsome on the deck of the *Northland Queen* with just a bit of haughtiness in his face.

Willow's eyes had narrowed as she stood on the edge of the crowd waiting for him to see her. She was well aware of her attractions. This Joe Quincey—he was a man worth having. Already she saw herself as the lady of the Post, wearing store clothes every day instead of just for best. Willow's lips curled when she thought of the overcrowded cabin she called home. Never would she marry an Indian—never. They were too shiftless, too lazy ever to amount to anything.

Now she hurried back to the group of girls watching the races. Her eyes gleamed. That Rona Robertson with her nice clothes and smart airs. She'd put her in her place.

Rona Robertson turned as Willow stepped beside her. "Hello, Willow," she said pleasantly. "Been talking to the hero?"

"Yes. Isn't he handsome. He asked me to go out for a ride in his boat. He owns the *Rover*, you know."

"How nice, Willow. It's a honey of a boat. I've been out on her many times."

Willow bit her lip. Rona, flaunting it in her face that the Robertsons and Quinceys were old friends and the Lebatts just outsiders. Well, she'd show them. She'd show them all what Willow Lebat could do.

A baseball game followed the races; Joe pitching for the single men, and Bill Robertson for the married. The crowd was wildly enthusiastic, and every now and then Joe heard the clear voice of Willow rooting for him.

A curious silence fell over them when they saw John Miller running for Joe. So Joe wasn't running himself. Must be that his leg wasn't so good after the crash-landing he made.

The face of Angus Quincey clouded. So the boy had been more seriously injured than he had ever let on. That was like Joe, saying almost nothing at all to spare his father.

Willow's eyes narrowed. What was the matter with him—why didn't he run like the rest?

Someone touched her arm. She looked up at the boy whose whole

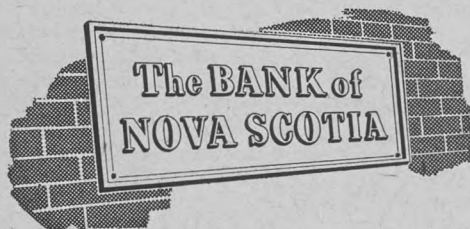


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heart was in his eyes as he looked down at her.

"Oh, hello, Johnny," she said carelessly. "Where you been?"

The boy's eyes rested on Joe for a moment. "Waiting for you."

"Oh," Willow lost interest and turned her attention to the ball game. "Well I been here all the time."

"You dance the first dance with me, Willow?" He spoke in a low voice for her ear alone.

Willow pretended she hadn't heard him and called out, "Come on, Joe! Fan him out! Fan him out!"

The boy looked once at her sparkling face, then at Joe, who had turned at the sound of Willow's voice and smiled in her direction, then he slipped away as quietly as he had come.

Willow was not even aware of his going. She could not possibly know that nothing could hurt him as much as her indifference. She was only conscious of the curious glances cast her way and she revelled in it. Let them see that she and Joe Quincey were friends—more than friends, even.

To Willow Lebatt, Joe spelt freedom—freedom from poverty, from a drunken father who could be charming or ugly as the mood struck him, and freedom from the indolent fat woman who was her mother. The

dumb look of suffering and pride that was always in the mother's eyes when she looked at her daughter infuriated the girl, who never looked beneath the surface of any face.

Joe meant freedom also from the contempt and the pity with which the people of Pelican Bay viewed the Lebatt family. The younger people accepted Willow as one of themselves, yet always underneath their friendliness she felt that undercurrent of patronage that stung her and made her want to strike back in retaliation.

Her father—he was long past redemption; her mother—Willow's heart ached when she thought of her mother. She was content as long as they had enough to eat and Pierre did not strike the younger children.

All her life Willow had suffered from a feeling of inferiority and it had struck deep. It humiliated her when she was old enough to realize no one was as ragged or poorly dressed at school as she and her brothers. Half the time there weren't enough rubbers to go around, so they went barefooted to school and Willow often wept in secret.

When she grew older she realized from the remarks of other people that she had one thing to her advantage, she was beautiful. This was her one weapon against the world, her one

hope of getting what she wanted, a rich husband who could give her a life of ease and comfort, freedom from hunger and want.

The desire to better herself drove Willow to learn how to sew with the able instruction of the driving Martha. Willow hated sewing but it was the only way she could get pretty clothes to improve her appearance so she set herself doggedly to learn. And learn she did, smiling her thanks sweetly at Martha and muttering French curses inaudibly under her breath.

Martha did not understand French and she admired the neatness of the tiny stitches and helped the girl develop the natural good taste she had inherited from the French grandmother she had never known.

Willow was determined to escape from the poverty of her home, and marriage seemed the only way out. She had toyed with the idea that Johnny Ottertail might do, for his father possessed money in the bank (an unheard of thing among the rest of the Indians at Pelican) and he owned a profitable mink ranch that he was expanding annually. The name Ottertail dulled her enthusiasm and Joe's arrival killed it completely.

Now she turned her back on Johnny and forgot him completely. He no longer served as a solution, and he and

his shy embraces that Willow suffered, because there wasn't anything better at Pelican, were gone from her mind.

Far off from the boisterous crowd, Johnny Ottertail pushed his canoe out on the river. He paddled with savage intensity far from all signs of civilization where the unbroken line of fir trees raised their lofty heads high above the river bank, standing aloof and untouched by human suffering.

At five o'clock, Martha gave the signal that the dinner was ready. Tables had been put up outside for the children who were awed at the sight of such a lot of good things to eat, uncertain what to try first.

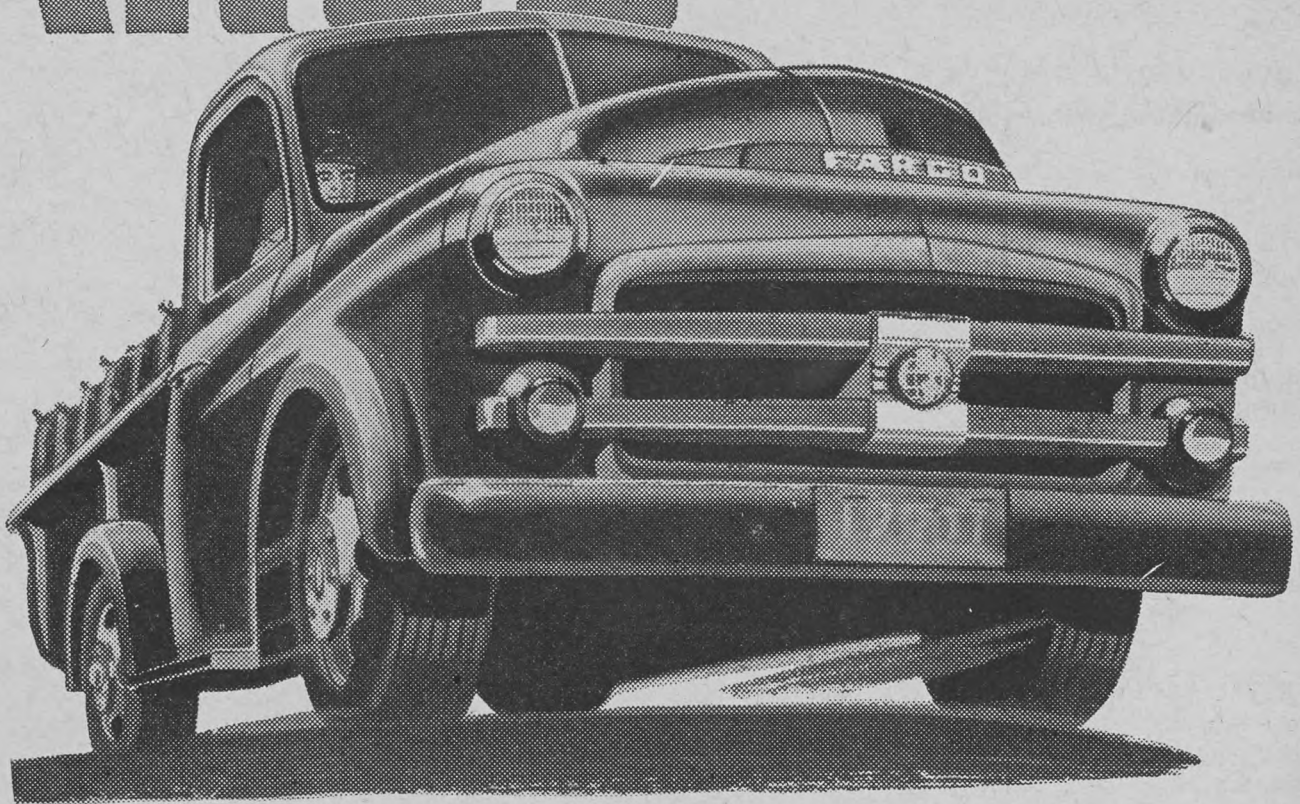
Inside the Community Hall four long tables were set up the length of the room with the head table at the far end, running parallel to the stage.

Joe seated himself in the center in the big chair he recognized as belonging to Donald McTavish.

He looked at the heavily laden table, his dark eyes brooding. He thought of the country he had been in where people formed long lines outside the shops and waited patiently for hours for a little bit of meat. He thought of the lined face of Madame in whose home he had hidden for so many anxious days, a face made gaunt from slow starvation, black eyes dulled from an improper diet. He

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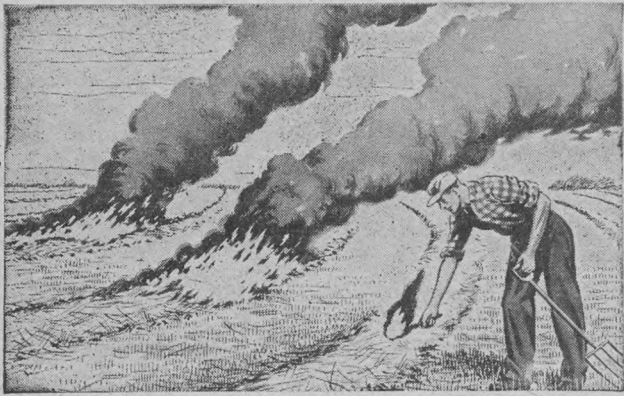
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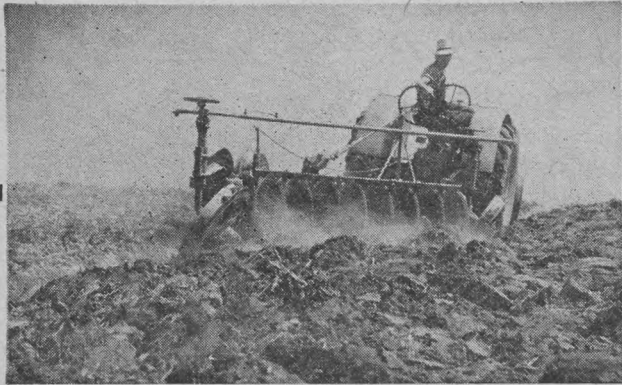
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could almost see her creeping down the dark stairs toward him, her thin shoulders stooped under her tattered shawl, shrugging when she looked at the potatoes and hard bread. "C'est le guerre," she said in her hoarse whisper.

He felt like apologizing to Madame for the food he did not feel like eating.

The program, from Luther Fisher's point of view, was a great success and he felt slightly happier and very proud as if he himself had done the whole thing.

Only Willow's solo, rendered in a reedy but rather sweet tone, brought the light back to Joe's eyes. Willow was smart. She had accomplished what she wanted and she could afford to wait. She was shrewd enough to keep at a little distance from Joe, to whet the glow of interest she had awakened. Let Miss Glover have the field if she wished. Miss Glover was neither pretty nor clever, but a lady, a lady who considered herself just a little above the people of Pelican, a lady who was cold as a fish and had buckteeth.

Willow went out of her way to be sweet and helpful all evening to the older women of Pelican. She moved in a kind of glow all evening, a glow that more than one noticed and secretly speculated about. She was growing into a beautiful woman, this strange daughter of Pierre Lebatt. It was significant that they always regarded her as the daughter of Pierre and gave no thought to the girl's mother.

More than once the mother's eyes followed the slim figure of her daughter in the simple white frock that was so becoming, eyes narrowing a little. Willow was up to something again, and most likely up to no good. Was it the flyer this time? She shot a quick glance at Joe. Ah, here was one who would not be fooled too easily. Perhaps Willow had met her match in him. A strange, mocking expression crossed her face. He was strong strong in his mind as well as body, but after all he was only a man, and men, heaven knew, were so terribly vulnerable where beautiful women were concerned, and Willow was beautiful. She knew men and she knew her daughter. He would have to be very strong, very strong indeed if he was going to escape Willow, if she had made up her mind to get him.

The mother's eyes went back to her daughter, eyes that grew soft and a little fearful. What would happen to this daughter of hers—this strange rebellious creature, who was a peculiar mixture of good and evil? True, all people were such a mixture, but in Willow it seemed more apparent than in most. Would the conflicting personality of the girl lead her to destruction? She sighed as she often did when she looked at her daughter.

The tables were cleared away, the floor was swept and the dancing commenced. Dancing is one of the greatest pleasures of the Indian, and young and old alike joined in with the exhilaration of children at a Sunday School picnic. Those who were too infirm to dance took part by tapping their feet in time to the music or with loud clapping of hands. Every now and then some youth, carried away by his holiday spirits or prompted by the occasional nip between dances,

let out an ear-splitting whoop that in the long-dead past had led his ancestors on the warpath.

Joe's mood of depression passed when the dancing began. He had never been overly keen on dancing himself, but there was something youthful and contagious about the dancers. But he shook his head and grinned when they urged him to join in, offering no excuse.

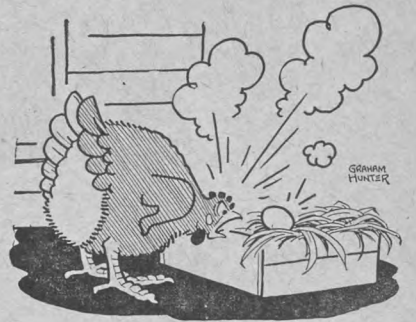
The Red River Jig threatened the very foundations of the Community Hall but the dancing went on.

MARTHA sat down beside Joe and fanned herself with her hanky.

"I'm puffed out, Joe, just puffed out. I used to be able to keep up with the best of them, but not any more. I guess I must be getting old." She pointed to one set in the center of the floor. "Will you look at Mrs. John. She's older by nine years than I am and heavier by a good 60 pounds, yet there she's hopping about like a sparrow."

She fanned herself vigorously again and looked around the hall with satisfaction. It was a lovely party, worth all the hours she had spent in cooking and planning. Everyone was having such a good time. All but perhaps the honored guest.

Martha scrutinized Joe's face. As usual, she could read nothing there. On the surface he seemed to be joining in the fun but she had seen a strange look in his eyes at odd moments during the evening, like the time that fool of a Russell boomed



"China egg, eh! More pump priming!"

out, "Well, my boy, I guess it was a pretty damn good show over there. Did ya kill many Heiniees? Wish I'd been ten years younger. I'd a gone in there first crack." Joe's face had seemed to tighten just for a moment as he answered carefully, "Yes, I guess from across the ocean it must look like a pretty good show." Then he'd turned to someone else and talked about the mink business.

And the time he'd been talking to Miss Glover. Martha frowned. She'd give a lot to know what the girl had said to bring such a look to Joe's face. For an instant he'd been almost savage. It must have been something he resented very much, for it took a lot to nettle a man of Joe's calibre.

Now there was a strange look about him, a look almost melancholy as he sat there watching the dancers. Maybe it was because he couldn't dance and wanted to. No, it couldn't be that. He'd never liked dancing much and usually spent the evening watching if he came at all. No, it was something that ran deeper than that.

It was Martha who drew his attention to the Old One huddled in a corner, smoking her black pipe and puffing out great clouds of smoke. Her wise old eyes watched the

dancers, her foot tapped out every fifth beat or so. The Old One was enjoying herself immensely.

Martha touched his arm. "Look, Joe, there's the Old One—see—over there in the corner by herself. I'd give a pretty to know how old she is."

They sat and watched the old woman. Then Martha said slowly, "You know, there's been a bad mistake made somewhere. Inside that bent old body lives a young soul. The Old One should have a body like Willow there, young and full of fire."

She was silent for a moment, watching the tapping foot, garbed in a man's clumsy, worn boot. "She was my first friend in Pelican. Oh, the others were polite enough, but they didn't accept me and I knew it. They thought I was a meddlesome, over-

bearing woman—which I was," she added with truthful candor. "She came the night Rob almost died from diphtheria. I'll never forget the sight of her standing in the doorway. She was old then and I remember I thought her ugly. I was alone and scared, but as soon as I saw her I knew here was someone who was a friend. She gave him something she'd brewed herself and I let her. I'd given him up hours before. He choked up the phlegm, then he fell into a stupor and I thought to myself, 'This is the end. He's gone.' And somehow that canny old woman must have read my thoughts for she smiled and shook her head. She stayed with me all night and in the morning I saw that he was sleeping. I have never thought her ugly since."

THEY got up and approached the old woman. Martha touched her arm. "Old One," she called. "Here is the son of the Fur Trader."

The Old One looked up at Joe. "So," she croaked, "The son of the Fur Trader, has returned. The eagle has alighted at last. You have been long in coming."

Joe felt a bit awkward. He had never known her well. He did not know what to say to one so old, but he sat down beside her.

Martha left them. The Old One rocked gently back and forth, back and forth, and said nothing. "You have been long in coming, Eagle," she muttered at last. "The little Grey Dove grows weary of waiting. She is wounded and sick. Danger hovers

over the head of the little Grey Dove."

Joe tried to follow her rambling words, but they made no sense to him.

"What is it you mean, White Crane?" he asked softly, "Who is this little Grey Dove?"

The old woman's eyes met his and she grinned. Somehow that toothless grin seemed rather horrible.

"The little Grey Dove is thy mate, oh, brave Eagle. But you must first free her from the vulture before she can be yours. The vulture is strong. You must be stronger if you are going to triumph. There are dark clouds gathering over Pelican Bay. Dark clouds that will break soon—soon." There was something eerie about her voice.

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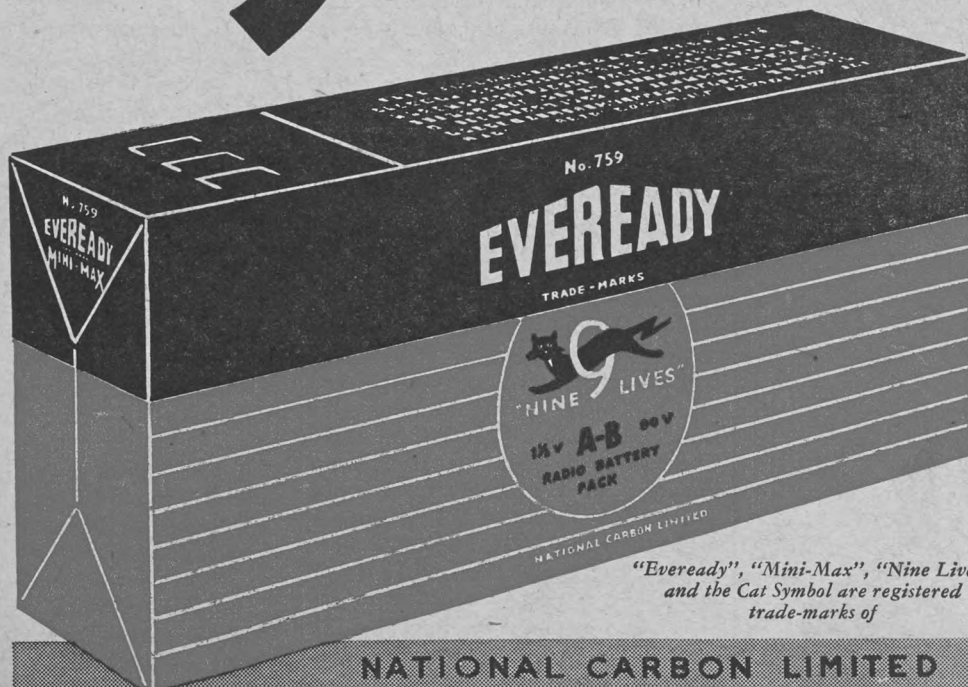
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"My mate!" he echoed. "An eagle only mates with an eagle, White Crane. That is the law of nature, the law the Great Spirit teaches his feathered children."

The old woman cackled derisively. "The words of White Crane will come true, oh, Eagle. You will mate with the Grey Dove if you can but free her, and fly from the northland."

Joe smiled. The old woman had become a child again and amused herself with childish games. "I have but now returned to the northland, White Crane. It is here I belong and here I shall stay." His eyes caught sight of Willow's white dress. "Yes, here I shall stay," he repeated.

The old woman shook with silent laughter that, strangely enough, rather irritated him.

"You will not escape, my brave Eagle, you cannot escape your destiny, White Crane saw and she knows. White Crane is wise with the wisdom of her fathers. You cannot escape."

Joe stood up, bade her good night, and left. Her canny old eyes followed him and she laughed to herself.

Martha had been wrong when she thought everyone was having a good time. Miss Glover was not enjoying

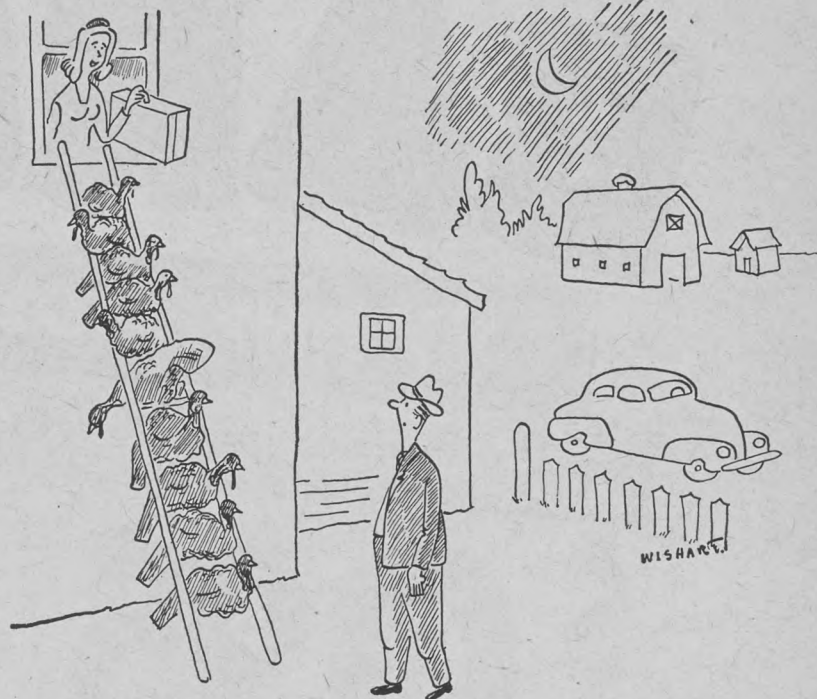
was startled by the expression on his face. His eyes had fairly blazed. After an awkward moment, during which she had grown more and more uncomfortable, he stood up, bowed mockingly, and said. "Perhaps, some day, Miss Glover, you will learn that the Indians, whom you consider inferior to yourself because their skin is brown where yours is white, are human with the same thoughts and emotions as yourself." Then he left her without another word.

Miss Glover's face was uncomfortably red. She pretended she did not notice him talking to Willow. They spoke in Cree and they were laughing. Miss Glover suddenly hated Pelican Bay.

FAR from all sounds of gaiety, Tanya Ellis sat brooding in front of the fire, living over again the past that would not die.

Her coming to Pelican River was a mistake. She had thought that here, in the midst of solitude she could forget, but she knew now that she could never escape the past. It went with her wherever she fled.

Pelican River had seemed her only hope, but that too had failed her.



"Maybe we better wait until next week when Pa sells the turkeys."

herself. She sat beside Mrs. Robertson and wondered what she had said that angered the young airman so.

She, like Willow, had set herself to be charming and friendly, and they had chatted like old friends after the discovery that they had both attended the same college. He had even told her about a silly escapade that occurred in his freshman year and they had laughed over it together. He remembered her brother, Hugh, a halfback on the football team. It gave them something in common. Then he asked her how she liked Pelican Bay, and she, thinking of her college days and her friends there, had answered rather forcefully, "Oh, it's all right, I guess. The place is picturesque enough, but it is lonely for a white girl to have nothing but Indians to associate with." Her voice had been just a little contemptuous. That had given him a perfect opening to say that here was one, a white person like herself, with whom she could amuse herself.

But he hadn't said anything—not a thing, and when she looked up, she

She was a fool to keep on trying like this and fighting to escape and always finding in the end that she was still chained. Why go on fighting any longer? Why not, like Elise take the easiest way out? Oblivion would be sweet. Perhaps she lacked the courage of Elise. Perhaps that was it.

She laughed mirthlessly. She couldn't face living and she was afraid to die.

She got up and walked to the window. Below her the waters of the river made silver by the moonlight, shone like a mirror. The river looked restful, going quietly on forever, oblivious of the frailties of the human mind.

Tanya turned away. Something inside of her would not let her go.

Outside the river flowed on and on in its silent way. Inside the Lodge the fire burned low, unheeded, until only a few coals glowed beneath a heap of grey ashes. Tanya sat motionless in the chesterfield, unmindful of the dying fire.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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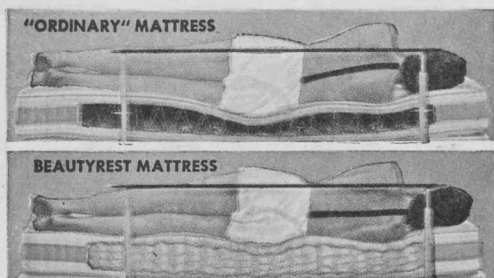
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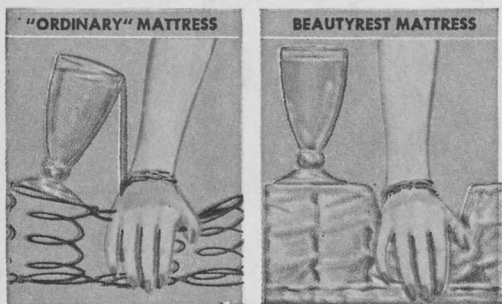
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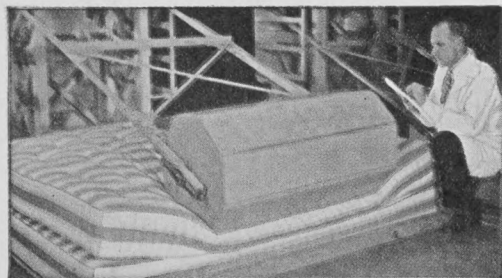
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Hailstones . . . Round and Flat

Observations and recordings about these damaging visitations, which nature sometimes provides for farmers to deplore

by DAN McCOWAN

IN his fine descriptive poem "Between Two Furious Oceans," Dick Diespecker of Vancouver speaks of the eyes of prairie farmers as being

*Long used to trouble signs
Searching for purple-bellied clouds,
pregnant with devastating hail.*

And none but the anxious grain grower, whose crop is ripening to harvest, knows the full meaning of those lines. Untimely frost, prolonged drought, rust and the burden of the grasshopper, are amongst the hazards confronting the tiller of the soil of western Canada. Even more vexing, indeed one might say heart-rending, is the sudden slash of savage hail which batters crops to the earth and brings ruin to many a castle in the air.

Alberta is seldom mentioned without the prefix "Sunny," while the fact is covertly ignored that this same province is perhaps more heavily pounded by hail than almost any other part of the globe. Fortunate is the farmer, who, in certain areas, and in course of a lifetime of plowshare polishing, has not been hailed out. Courageous is the farmer's wife, who, looking out from her kitchen window across the stricken fields, can wipe away a furtive tear and turn bravely again to the daily task in hand.

While conversant with the fact that one may prudently insure against loss by hail, I am nevertheless convinced that amongst the many farmers in Alberta, there are few who neither take particular pride in surveying a field of standing grain, nor fail to rejoice at safe harvesting of a bountiful crop.

HAIL is generally the by-product of a thunderstorm, and is created by raindrops hoisted to high altitudes by violent uprushing columns of air. There the droplets are subjected to "quick freeze," and sometimes fall direct to the ground in the form of small pellets. But as frequently happens when the atmosphere is in a highly turbulent state, these icy globules may be compelled to make several journeys up and down between cold and warm zones before finally bouncing off fields and roofs and the tops of automobiles. During these ascents and descents the incipient hailstone gains rapidly in bulk and weight, until, at the end of its career, it may be large enough and heavy enough to split a shingle or to bring the life of a promising poult to an untimely end.

By cutting a hailstone in half one may determine how many ups and downs it experienced before landing. The cross-section is similar to that of an onion and looks somewhat like the exposed forefoot of a glacier in miniature. The alternate layers of hard ice and softer snow in the body of the globular hailstone yield visible evidence of its vertical journeys in mid-air. At moderate heights it collects and congeals rain drops; at great altitudes it accumulates crystals of ice; hailstones having as many as 20 layers of ice and snow have been reported.

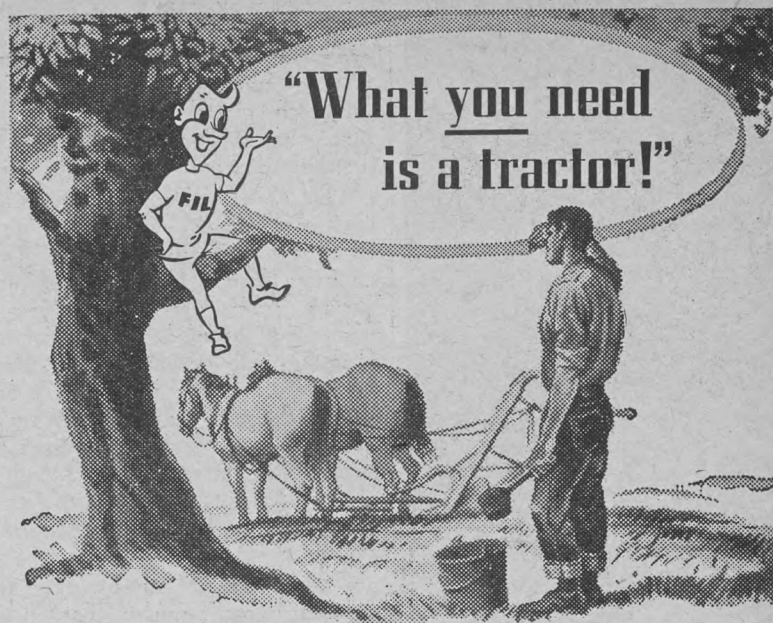
My first experience of large hail was gained near Lacombe, where in the summer of 1907, I saw hailstones slightly larger than golf balls bounce briskly off the ground. Except for smashing window glass and killing poultry these did but little serious damage. Since then I have heard tell of "tennis ball" hailstones, three of which fully occupied a tea plate but fortunately such giant stones descend but rarely on any part of Canada.

The largest hailstone of which there is authentic record dented the State of Nebraska in 1928. It measured 17 inches in girth, weighed one and a half pounds and must assuredly have landed with a dull thud. Such a chunk of ice, equal in size to a grapefruit, might brain a man or even fell an ox. There are numerous instances of livestock and of people having been fatally injured by hail in various parts of the globe. Near Rostov in Russia, in July, 1923, a severe hailstorm took the lives of over a score of peasants who had rushed into the fields to save their grazing cattle. Similar fatalities have from time to time been reported from various countries—Greece, Germany and Bulgaria. A hailstorm in northern India in the year 1888 was said to have taken about 250 lives. So far, I have no record of any person in Canada having been hit and killed by a hailstone.

ALTHOUGH hailstorms are usually local in character, one occasionally has news of hail cutting a wide swath across almost an entire province. In southern Europe, vineyards and olive groves are sometimes bludgeoned by hail and there one may still find hail rods—a special form of lightning rod—erected on knolls and on prominent sites throughout the region. These large copper rods, properly grounded, were installed in the fond belief that sufficient electricity might thereby be drained from the heavens to prevent thunder clouds, with their attendant hail, from forming. In France, where many of these rods stood erect, there was, until recently, heated argument over their supposed efficiency, such as one may still find in parts of Canada about the dubious art of rain-making.

While hailstorms do considerable damage to field crops between the Red River and the Rockies it is but rare for any large city in western Canada to be stricken by destructive hail. Once in Vienna, Austria, hail smashed over one million window panes in but a few minutes. In Dallas, Texas, in 1926, hailstones as large as baseballs did damage estimated at well over \$2,000,000 to buildings, street lights and especially to automobiles.

Hail does not always fall in the form of pellets. Once, while motoring between Cochrane and Exshaw in Alberta, I encountered hail which almost fluttered to the earth. The pieces of ice were flat and about equal in size to small biscuits or to visiting cards. Because of its peculiar shape it did not even patter on or bounce off the highway and did no harm to the foliage of wild plants growing in the foothills.



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Australian Growers

Continued from page 7

much wheat as they humanly could. In their turn, the growers' leaders warned the public that the time might come when it would be necessary for Australia to import wheat.

What are the reasons for this situation? In a country where farming is a political football, the answers are not hard to find. In a period of four seasons, from 1947-48 to 1950-51, some 5,000 farmers throughout Australia stopped growing wheat. Thousands of others had reduced the area they used to crop. Most farmers have ceased to grow wheat because the margin of profit is not big enough to reward the effort of producing a crop, or to cover the risk of adverse seasonal conditions.

A committee set up by the Commonwealth government has determined the cost of production of wheat grown in the 1951-52 season at 19s. per bushel. According to estimates, wheat from this crop is likely to return growers an average of 11s. 6d. per bushel.

A comparison with the returns which can be secured if wheat land is used for other agricultural or pastoral production, is an important factor to the grower. The relative returns from wheat and wool over a period of five years, according to Department of Agriculture figures, were as follows, taking returns from each, during the year 1947-48, as 100: 1948-49—wheat 78 and wool 122; 1949-50—wheat 91 and wool 160; 1950-51—wheat 87 and wool 363; 1951-52 wheat 98 and wool 189.

There is little doubt that the high price of wool and the very attractive prices being paid for fat lambs, have been the major factor in the decline of wheat production. There are, however, other factors which have probably accelerated the trend, such as declining fertility of the wheat land, difficulties experienced in getting new farm machinery, spare parts, and fertilizer, and scarcity of efficient farm labor.

Since the war the wheat farmer has been at the mercy of misfits and no-hopers, to help work his farm. They have demanded, and were paid, their £10 a week, free of tax, no Saturday work, and milk and meat without cost. Farm machinery of any kind is at a premium, entailing a wait of perhaps several years for a tractor, from the date of placing the order. Meanwhile, the price of tractors has more than doubled. Superphosphate has been, and still is, a headache for farmers. Orders take over a year to fill, and prices, likewise, triple themselves in the interim.

The Commonwealth government recently announced a plan which, it claims, will aid farmers. It has undertaken to contribute £200,000 to an Australia-wide extension service to farmers in 1952-53, as part of the plan to further the five-year program of expanded food production and increased export income. Explaining this a few days ago, the Minister for Commerce, Mr. McEwen, said that if rural production aims were to be achieved, the agricultural advisory services of the six Australian states—New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, and West Australia—would have to be expanded.

"Extension services" meant the service of carrying to the farmer the accumulated knowledge and current results of scientific research into the problems of agriculture, the minister said.

"The Commonwealth government believes that, as part of a great, well-planned program of extension services, industry will be willing to contribute at a substantial level to support the activities financed by the Commonwealth and State governments. There is no proposal that the Commonwealth itself should conduct an extension service and thereby duplicate what are normally State functions," he added.

Commenting on the plan, a prominent wheat grower told your correspondent: "Plan or no plan, there is little doubt that the result of the current wheat sowing will be disappointing to the Federal government. Growers are well aware of the government's call for higher production. The majority of growers are highly intelligent men, realizing the responsibility of wheat growing to the national economy. But most consider the government's appeal to 'grow more wheat' as unreal. Today wheat and wool compete for the farmer's attention, and although in normal years wheat would give the farmers a better return, the high prices for wool have placed the emphasis on sheep," he added.

It is in Australia's wheat-growing areas that the Federal government's fiscal policy is the greatest barrier to wheat production. A limited wheat crop still makes the farmer subject to the provisional tax as a wheat grower; and in these areas resentment of the tax is fierce.

(By the imposition of provisional tax a farmer is taxed on the estimated production of his farm, as well as on his income. For instance, one farmer's tax assessment for 1950-51 amounted to £27,000 — £13,000 for taxation and £14,000 provisional tax for 1951-52. He abandoned wheat growing solely because of the high rate of tax.)

"We're better off without wheat and its headaches," the farmers say. "Grazing will do us. It gives us a splendid return—and we are taxed enough on that."

Given the incentive to grow wheat, Australian farmers would and could put many thousands of acres into the production of wheat. Such an incentive can come, however, only from a far-sighted government policy. The balance of primary production needs to be carefully nursed; too often, in the past, haphazard policies have allowed the balance to be upset, to the detriment of the land itself.

THE Federal government has the fixed idea that it is useless to proceed with the preparation of a new domestic wheat stabilization scheme until the future of the international agreement has been determined. A decision may be reached in Washington in January but, as the agreement does not expire until July and as there is a wide divergence on prices between exporting and importing countries, the negotiations could continue much longer.

Thus, at present, Australia has no domestic scheme in sight to take the place of the one that will expire with the 1952-53 harvest. In an effort to give farmers an assurance respecting



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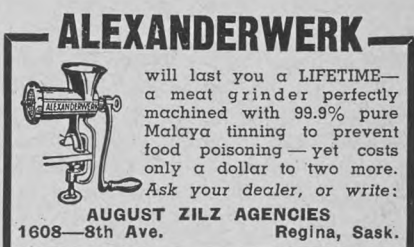
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the 1953-54 harvest, the Australian Agricultural Council has proposed that they be given the "protection" for that season, of an arrangement not less favorable than the present scheme "without prejudice to the earliest possible negotiation of a new long-term plan following any announcement of a new international agreement, or a decision not to renew the agreement."

However, a plan which has the backing of the Australian Wheat-growers' Federation, has been submitted to the Federal government for consideration. It will give a new deal in wheat marketing to replace the stabilization plan, which expires at the end of the current year. The plan also embodies an equitable reciprocal arrangement, ensuring a fair profit on all wheat sold in Australia.

In explaining the new plan, a wheat authority pointed out that the Pollard Wheat Stabilization Scheme expired with the marketing of the growing wheat crop, and that a growers' ballot had been promised on a new scheme. The Agricultural Council, however, had agreed to a Federal proposal to defer the ballot, because interested nations had failed to agree on terms for extending the International Wheat Agreement.

Critics say that the Australian Agricultural Council should be busy preparing a new domestic scheme, and that if the Federal government were realistic in its desire to replenish Australia's overseas funds, it would not be interested in an international agree-

ment, which, to be acceptable to importers, must force wheat prices below their intrinsic levels. If the Federal government could get rid of this fixation, it could join the States in involving new internal arrangements, which, combined with open marketing abroad, would be designed to improve growers' returns and to stimulate renewed interest in wheat growing. Until the government gives a positive lead in this direction, it will continue to lay itself open to the charge that it says about agriculture, things it does not mean.

Now, as this article is completed, word comes that the future of the Australian wheat industry stabilization plan is to be discussed at a meeting in Canberra on August 29. Also, on September 10 and 11, the standing committee on agriculture will discuss detailed use of the £200,000 grant for the Commonwealth for "extension" services. Announcing this, Commerce Minister McEwen said he had invited representatives of the Australian Wheatgrowers' Federation to discuss plans at a series of primary production conferences.

Mr. McEwen said he had already undertaken to discuss with the Federation and State governments the extension of the wheat stabilization plan for five years, when the International Wheat Council determined a new price for wheat. However, a firm decision on the continuance of the International Wheat Agreement, and prices under it, could not be expected before April.

Berry Paradise

How one Vancouver Island berry grower used a sawdust mulch to cut costs

by C. V. FAULKNER

ABOUT 11 miles out of Victoria, B.C., where the Island Highway poises for its drop into Goldstream Canyon, berry grower Rupert Stephens has applied his own special brand of magic to coarse, gravelly soil that was raw bushland less than four years ago. The miracle-working genie was sawdust, used as a mulch; and the horticultural wonderland created became "Berry Paradise"—home of the Goldstream everbearing strawberry.

In Stephens' own words, "On my farm sawdust is the slave that saves me from hundreds of hours of weeding and cultivating. Shielded by a carpet of sawdust, millions of earthworms work for me the year around, safe from extremes of heat, drought and frost."

Like a natural showcase the land rises from the busy highway in three short benches, each in plain view of passers-by. It was the location that decided Stephens and his wife to go ahead with their plans for a large, attractive drive-in berry market that would enable them to sell their products directly to the public. Today crowds of motorists draw in at the blue-roofed stand where Gwen Stephens presides; some to buy berries some just to see the sawdust, others to relax in the little picnic-playground Rupert has fixed up in a grove of shade trees. Enough visitors come buying, to use the entire output of these seven intensively cropped acres, and keep a summer picking staff

of about ten girls constantly on the go.

"At the height of berry season cars jam into the stand so tightly we can't get in or out ourselves," Mrs. Stephens said, "Even sightseeing buses stop to conduct tours through the place."

The natural showcase effect of Berry Paradise has been complemented by the window-dressing talents of its owners. Against a golden carpet of sawdust, orderly rows of strawberries stand out, framed by rows of raspberries, boysenberries, logans, and cascades trained upon high, wire trellises. In vivid contrast is the bright blue trim of the stand and playground, and that of the Stephens' low modern bungalow, perched on the highest bench, back of the fields.

Rupert's conversion to sawdust culture came only after many years of berry farming "the hard way," on a rocky farm farther up the island. Every year he had faithfully adhered to conventional spring and fall plowings, breaking off and destroying the young feeding roots of his plants as he drove up and down his berry rows. Nevertheless, the sight of rocks, roots, and earthworms being thrown up on the surface by his cultivator occasioned some heavy thinking, as did his steadily declining yields.

"By 1936 I got tired of this annual rock crop and decided to cover them up instead of dig them up," Stephens said. "The results spoke for themselves, and I've been a confirmed mulcher ever since." (over)

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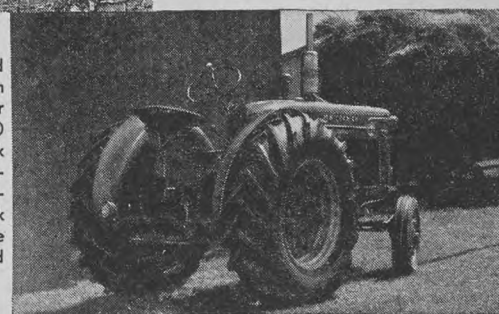
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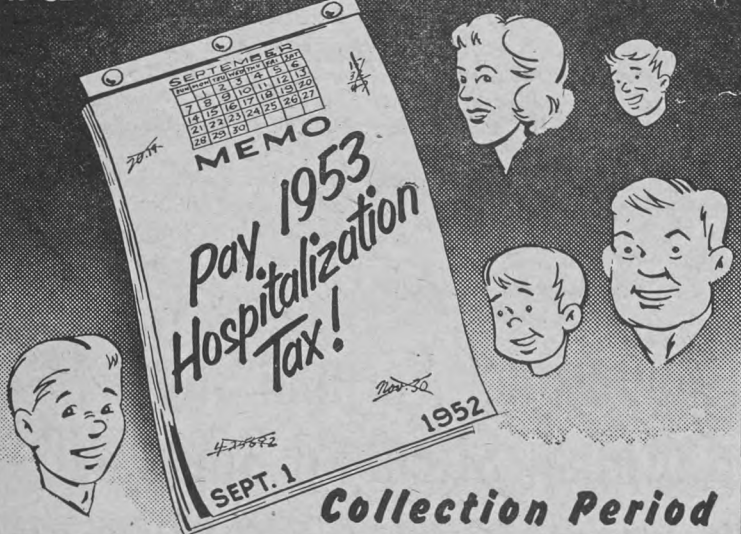
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THE first mulch Rupert tried was two or three inches of marsh hay and straw, spread between his raspberry canes. By the following May the rows were waist high in grass and grain, from seed brought in with the mulch. But yield results were spectacular. Money spent to pull weeds was returned with interest by a record berry crop of over ten tons per acre. To add to his satisfaction, Stephens noted his fields had weathered a rather inclement season free of rocks, dust, or mud. Convinced that mulching was the answer, he now concentrated on finding a mulch more suited to his needs.

During the fall and winter months he had large quantities of bracken fern gathered from nearby logged-over areas and spread on his fields. By 1939 every crop on the farm was under a permanent mulch, including small fruits, asparagus, rhubarb, and tree fruits.

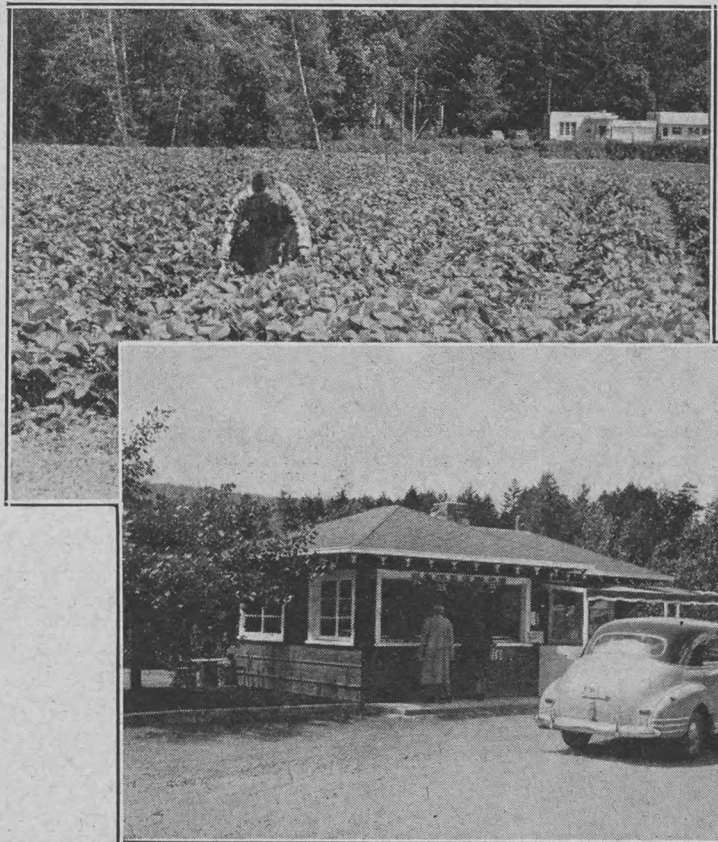
Resulting yields left nothing to be desired, but to gather and spread the fern was costing up to \$200 an acre per year. Furthermore, the approach-

sudden flash fires almost impossible, he reasoned.

"Even these small experiments of mine were looked on with horror by neighbors and friends," he smiled. "They said sawdust would poison the soil."

Leaves of plants grown in soil that has had sawdust mixed with it generally become yellowed and mangy-looking. Science has discovered this doesn't mean the plants have been "poisoned," but are merely starved for vital leaf-growing nitrogen. When any woody plant substance comes into intimate contact with the ground it encourages the growth of soil bacteria to the point where they start to consume reserves of soil nitrogen needed for the growing crop.

Fully aware of this, the Stephenses took special care to prevent sawdust from mixing with their soil. They found that even when laid on the surface as a mulch, it stimulated bacteria growth to some extent, and had to be counteracted by liberal doses of nitrogen. Their crops were now bringing from \$1,000 to \$2,000 an acre. In



Top: Rupert Stephens among his strawberries, where forest cover was three years ago, while Mrs. Stephens is on duty at the roadside stand (below).

ing war and its attendant labor shortage indicated that costs would increase.

In his search for the ideal mulch Rupert experimented with about a dozen materials, among them pine needles, maple leaves, leaf mold, shredded paper, and cardboard. All of them gave good results, but each one posed its own particular problem. Prime drawback to paper and cardboard mulches was the fire hazard they created.

"We used to lie awake at night worrying about it," Gwen Stephens confided. "A carelessly flung match in that tinder-dry cover would've wiped us out."

By this time Rupert was using a bit of sawdust, as he states "cautiously, and on a small scale." Being in a lumbering district, there were scattered piles of it all over the area, crying to be used. Apart from its availability, slow-burning sawdust would make

place of \$200 an acre to gather and lay their mulch, costs had been whittled down to from \$40 to \$75. By 1947 all the Stephens crops were under a permanent carpet of sawdust.

No wonder Rupert called sawdust his slave. Apart from the plowing, harrowing, and weeding saved, his berries were free of dust and grit. Too, in the wintertime, instead of the usual depressing grey landscape, the fields presented a rich patchwork of color.

"Every year I see my contemporaries using bigger and better machines, expending gas and oil to destroy vital fibre and humus," Stephens said, "while I've reduced my machinery to a couple of aluminum wheelbarrows and a small truck. Please bear in mind, however, I refer to fruit, vegetable, and flower growing only," he hastened to add. "I can't see a place for sawdust culture in large-scale farming operations."

ABOUT this time Rupert and Gwen decided they'd like to make a new start in an entirely new area, using the experience gained to develop "the perfect dream berry farm." In a little over three years, Berry Paradise has become just that. Located amid the wild, unspoiled scenery of the Goldstream area, it is now a mecca for tourists and plant breeders from all over the continent.

The Stephenses were determined to use their new-found plant culture right from the start. Convinced that plowing was unnecessary, they didn't plow. After a bulldozer had cleared and levelled the benches, they manured the soil heavily to provide the bacteria generally lacking in newly cleared land. Strawberry plants were planted by hand and covered with two to three inches of fresh sawdust.

These first plantings at Berry Paradise in March, 1949, consisted of ever-bearing varieties. Anxious weeks of waiting for new leaves to push their way up through the sawdust mantle were amply rewarded later, when the plants started bearing in good quantity that first July. After an unbelievably successful summer, the Stephenses were still picking berries when a hard frost suspended operations in early November. Rupert has since developed his Goldstream vari-

ety of everbearing strawberry, and only recently released some cuttings to an Oregon grower so the strain could be propagated there. Goldstreams bear continuously from June 1 to the end of October. The tendency of sawdust culture to cause plants to mature later is used to advantage at Berry Paradise with some crops to capture the off-season market.

Mulching is common practice today all over Vancouver Island, to conserve vital moisture during dry summer months. Now that sufficient information is available on how to handle it, sawdust has become the number one mulch because of its abundance and cheapness. Many growers have been converted to sawdust culture by a visit to Berry Paradise.

The growing popularity of sawdust mulching is an event of great personal satisfaction to Rupert and Gwen Stephens. And well it might be, for their efforts, when added to those of other practical farmers who have willingly gambled their time and livelihood to try newer, more efficient growing methods, comprise a real contribution to Canadian agriculture. In a sense, these are pioneers of the twentieth century—as deserving of the term as any migrating family that battled its way across the Great Plains in a covered wagon.

The Starling Story

These flying pests, imported from Europe, are flocking across the continent

by JOHN PATRICK GILLESE

NOT long ago, an Alberta farmer noticed some odd birds feeding in his yard. They were blackish-brown in color, with tints of purple and green when they turned in the sun, and about the same size as robins. He shot one and sent it to the University of Alberta for identification. The report: starlings—a bird unknown in North America less than 75 years ago.

Today, thousands of miles from where their immigrant ancestors landed, starlings have come to Alberta—"to stay" according to Prof. William Rowan, of the zoology department of the University of Alberta. This year they have returned in greatly increasing numbers, especially to the Irma district. Where the "Alberta group" spends its winters is as yet a mystery, but apparently they like the foothills province well enough to consider the trip worthwhile.

It is not so certain that Albertans feel kindly toward them. For while these uninvited guests do a lot of good in consuming cutworms and other insect pests, they are also notorious raiders of growing crops and ripening small fruits—and when they move into an area, many native birds are forced to get out.

Their story is like that of the carp—now the "gangster fish" of eastern lakes and rivers; like that of the teeming rabbit hordes of Australia—which, despite constant slaughter and incessant poison-war campaign, have done more damage to Australian grasslands and forests than any other animal plague in history. Fishing enthusiasts were anxious to bring the carp to

America "to see if it would survive," as one put it. Ex-English poachers, with memories of English moors, ordered a few bunnies from home, just to get the rabbits "started" in Australia. Crazy as it sounds, Shakespeare was indirectly responsible for the introduction of starlings to America.

In 1890, Eugene Schieffelin, a wealthy New York drug manufacturer, conceived the notion of bringing to North America all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's writings—including, of course, the English starling. Sixty were brought to New York by ship and released in Central Park. The following year, Schieffelin brought forty more. The first two starlings to mate in the New World paid the American Museum of Natural History the somewhat dubious compliment of nesting in the eaves of the Natural History Building.

Thus set up, the starlings proceeded to take over in their usual aggressive manner. From New York they spread to major New England cities, including Boston and Philadelphia. They "settled" the Great Lakes region and moved west. They went down the Mississippi Valley and crossed the Rockies. They migrated north of the border to eastern Canada and south of the border to the sunny land of *manana*. Today you can find them on the windswept shores of Hudson Bay; and now they have worked into the one starling-free province left—Alberta.

Their migration has not been too easy. Very early, people began to dislike them heartily, especially the great

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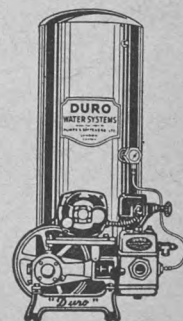
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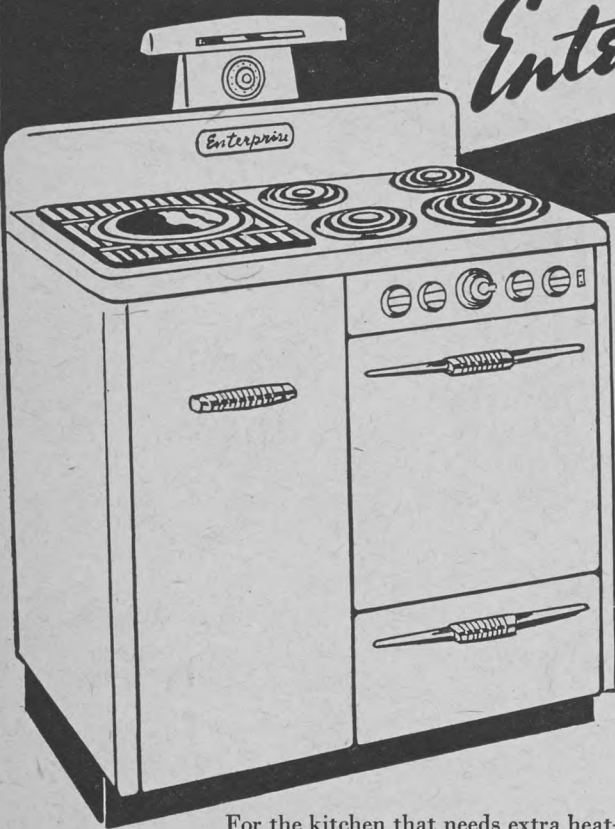
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concentrations in parks, on public buildings, under bridges (more than 40,000 have been counted on one New York bridge at once) and their destructive raiding habits. In efforts to destroy or discourage them, farmers have blasted them with shotguns, exploded dynamite bombs in their roosts, trapped them with various "footpastes" and torn down their nests, year after year. The starling, however, could not be stopped. Today, no one can estimate the millions of starlings in America, but Dr. Frank M. Chapman says they are, unquestionably, all descendants of Schieffelin's original "elite" breeding stock.

Hated heartily though it is by many, others have come to admire the starling as a versatile, wary and extremely resourceful bird. Generally it prefers to nest in holes in trees; in Alberta, however, it seems to prefer grain elevators as a nesting site. (This year, Gerald Reber, of Irma, reported finding several starlings in a barn, one of which he managed to capture.) It is extremely prolific, brooding two or three times a year in parts of the country. Four to six eggs comprise the usual hatch. Normally a ground feeder, it has been observed, during bitter weather, straddling bushes to eat seeds; clinging to the rough bark of trees, seeking insects after the fashion of woodpeckers; entering barns to scrounge in the lofts, and even tearing apart the nests of other birds, hoping to find long-lost seeds in the linings. No wonder, say the experts, that it has been able to survive.

In addition to aggressive and resourceful qualities, the starling has been endowed with the ability to think. In a Chicago blizzard, starlings were found roosting for the night on electric light bulbs that stayed lit all night long! Like crows

and parrots, starlings are passerine birds, possessing a full set of voice muscles, but they are able to add to their vocabulary all the new bird calls within their orbit. Thus, observers have found them mimicking as many as 78 species of native birds. They also have a sense of thrift: a starling will return to pick up grasses dropped during nest building, where other birds will forget it; and it will spend precious time seeking a single crumb dropped accidentally in some inaccessible spot.

The starling's friends, and they include officials of the U.S. Biological Survey, who took careful note of his eating habits, point him out as the most beneficial insect-eater we have. All during the nesting season, starling parents must be continually on the wing, finding food for the hungry young. Crickets, beetles, grasshoppers, cutworms (in season) and spiders are dropped all day long into the open wedge-beaks of the babes—beaks that open automatically even when the young are asleep! And scarcely do these infants leave the nest than they are about the same business.

Actually, their nuisance habits have been the worst complaint about the birds so far. One of their favorite New York roosts, for example, is the Metropolitan Museum of Arts Building on swank Fifth Avenue. And there is no doubt that the arrival of the starling is quickly followed by the departure of such well-bred songsters as bluebirds, flickers and martins.

Whether or not the starling will become a major Canadian pest, no one can yet forecast accurately. The danger, it would seem, lies in their terrific ability to reproduce... the moral of which is, man must be careful when he meddles with the balance of nature.

Farm Problems in Mexico

Mexican farmers are struggling to achieve a measure of economic stability

by EMIL ZUBRYN

MEXICAN agricultural production in the five-year period from 1946 to 1951 rose to a new record high of 3,000,000,000 pesos in round figures (about \$347,220,000), according to a report issued by Secretary of Agriculture, Nazario Ortiz Garza. Particularly spectacular gains were made in wheat production, with the state of Sonora alone reaching a peak of approximately 225,000 tons in this period.

Cultivation of wheat began in Mexico in 1946, with a harvest of 360,000 tons, and within five years this had been augmented by 88 per cent. Ortiz Garza estimated that wheat production for this year will be 600,000 tons while national consumption stands at about 800,000 tons. He said that the deficit will be met in part by new plantings and free importation of all additional amounts required.

Earlier rains this year (the rainy season starts usually in late May or June) have benefited the nation's agriculture, making possible sowing of corn, beans and other prime essential foodstuffs. The plans for stepped up production of corn are working well, with the Bank of Small Farmers

Credits and Agricultural Credit Bank financing 95 per cent of the current cultivation.

The panorama for the 1952 agricultural crop, according to Ortiz Garza, is "very favorable," even though there have been some "unusual" weather conditions such as delayed rains and hail storms. In the Chihuahua, Coahuila and Nuevo Leon agricultural areas, with these states suffering droughts of catastrophic proportions last year, rains are normal this year. This will aid late crops of wheat, corn and beans.

However, though the Secretary of Agriculture painted a rosy picture, Adrian Castrejon, president of the Frente Zapatista (Zapata Front, an agricultural organization fighting chiefly for country workers and small farmers), pointed out that now there are 600,000 *campesinos* (peasant farmers) who lack their own parcel of farming land, living in regions where government lands have been totally distributed. This vast army, said Castrejon, has no hope of owning its own small farm property.

The problem is a grave one and the Frente Zapatista organization has sug-



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gested to the government that the best
solution would be for mass emigration
of the rural workers from overpopu-
lated country areas to new zones,
establishing agricultural communities
in non-exploited areas. This would
open new vistas for Mexico's agricul-
ture, he said.

This is a highly commendable altru-
istic attitude. However, it does not
take into account the stubborn ways
of the campesinos themselves. The
rural farmers are attached to their own
insignificant spot of Mexico which,
whatever the misery, they call home.
And they resent any government or
private intrusion to move them from
one area to another. A case in point is
the fact that when the government
went into the Tres Marias area (less
than 30 kilometers from Mexico City),
which is untillable due to complete
erosion of the soil, and offered the
farmers new lands in another state,
only two out of every 100 invited,
indicated that they might be willing
to make the change.

The fact is that the campesinos,
aside from disliking to be uprooted
from their homes, are extremely poor.
It would not help them at all to be
moved to the most fertile of fields, and
then abandoned to building adobe
homes anew, scraping together money
for seeds and livestock and new farm
implements. The truth is that none of
them have the money for this and, if
they are considered a good risk by the
farm credit banks, then they fall hope-
lessly into a vicious circle of debt for
the rest of their lives.

Admittedly, the agrarian problem in
the country respecting these "farmless"
families is a grave one, as Castrejon
has insisted time and time again be-
fore federal officials. However, it can-
not be solved by merely giving the
campesinos their own parcels of land.
The campesinos in Mexico, if they
are ever to attain economic stability,
need much more—latest type farm
implements and mechanized equip-
ment to replace traditional but out-
moded and ineffective plows and hand
tools they now use; seeds; fertilizers;
insecticides (and the knowledge of
how to efficiently use these); and
above all, ample, liberal credits at
reasonable rates. If a program is in-
stituted to assure the campesinos all
of these essentials, then there will be
no small-farm problem in Mexico.

AGRICULTURAL leaders are
aware of the many abuses that
exist in the Mexican farm picture
today. Forward thinking large-scale
farmers and farm organizations are
also trying to do something to allevi-
ate the situation. One of the most
determined efforts is the current cam-
paign of the Confederacion Nacional
Campesina (National Small Farmers
Federation), which is attempting to
protect the interests of peasant farmers
and small agricultural operators.

The Federation has taken as its first
task, the improvement of conditions
for rice growers and is embarked on
an aggressive campaign to achieve a
three-point program: (1) The or-
ganization of sales co-operatives for
the control and management of rice
harvests as a medium to stabilize
prices at "just" levels and eliminate
the "excessive" profits of middlemen;
(2) Fight for the revoking of local
taxes, state and municipal, which are

termed unconstitutional by the Fed-
eration in many cases; (3) Obtain the
complete mechanization of rice cul-
tivation.

This program was decided upon
after studies undertaken by Marcelino
Murrieta, president of the Technical
Council of the Federation showed that
purchasers of rice crops were making
tremendous profits on their invest-
ments, without any of the risks of
growers, and further manipulating
purchase prices for their own benefit.
This situation, prevalent in the states
of Morelos, Puebla, Guerrero and
Veracruz (principal rice growing
centers) is due chiefly to the fact that
rice farmers lack mills and are
obliged to sell their products to in-
dustrialists who have this equipment.
The complaint has been made that
at times prices paid to growers were
below actual cultivation costs.

Unjust taxation is another evil and
for all that growers are only legally
supposed to pay five per cent of the
value of their harvest to local authori-
ties, the actual taxation runs 15 per
cent and even higher in some areas.

The Federation decried the lack of
a solid front on the part of rice pro-
ducers, for the sale of their harvests,
thus permitting large-scale speculation
in this grain. Cited as to the satisfac-
tory results which can be obtained
from organization, was the organiza-
tion of the small farmers of the Yaqui
Valley in the state of Sonora. The
co-operative rice sales group has
been organized and operating for sev-
eral years, bringing a remunerative
return to growers and making rice
available to the public at sensibly low
prices.

THE Federation would like to see
the co-operative sales idea ex-
tended to all rice growing areas in the
country, and it is working to this end
at the present time. The co-operatives
will be in a better position to bargain
for bank credits for the purchase of
rice mills, farm implements and
machinery, and above all they will be
a united front against speculations in
rice. The Federation is further advoc-
ating fixed prices for rice in each
producing region, and investigations
to arrive at just figures are now going
on.

Finally, the Federation is seeking to
inaugurate a plan for the drilling of
water holes, the acquisition of pump-
ing equipment, solar dryers, and grain
warehouses. The drive for rice cul-
tivation reform is spurred by the fact
that national consumption of the grain
per individual stands 5.510 kilograms
a year, and is growing. Plans also call
for an intense campaign, reaching
rural and urban areas alike, specifying
the nutritive value of rice. The pub-
licity campaign has for its purpose
wider acceptance of rice as a food
product in Mexican homes and greater
national production.

Once the rice situation is resolved,
Federation officials will attack on
other agricultural fronts, to eliminate
existing evils and make the lot of
farmers throughout the nation more
economically secure than it is today.
Organization is the key to achieve
these ends, and the Federation is
working unceasingly to instill the ad-
vantages of united co-operation in
what has been a very disorganized
agricultural production program.

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Home on the Seine

A Wyoming author who knows the real thing describes an imitation

by CHARLES J. BELDEN

MONSIEUR le cowboy rides again, not where the "deer and the antelope play," but in far-off gay Paree through the Bois de Boulogne, past sidewalk cafes and around the Eiffel Tower. To the accompaniment of ear-splitting "Yip-pees" and pounding hoofs these riders of the boulevards create wide-eyed amazement among the Sunday strollers of the Champs Elysees.

These Paris cowboys are not transplanted buckaroos from foreign shores but are all native-born Frenchmen of this 2,000-year-old "City of Light." To parody the well-known rhyme there's the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick-maker" but in this case the candlestick-maker happens to be M. Gelot, director of a fashionable hat shop on the Place Vendome just across from the Hotel Ritz. Then there is Buckaroo Andre Desvignes, owner of one of the older, truly French restaurants called "Le Relais de la Belle Aurore" which translated means "The Post House of the Beautiful Dawn." Probably, if the restaurant had not come down through innumerable generations Desvignes would like to call it "The Chuck Wagon."

This group of cowboy-crazy Parisians have called themselves the "Club Hippique du Lasso" or in plain English, "Club of the Lassoing Horsemen." Genial, greying artist of the old school, Joe Hamman, founded the club in 1948 and is the only member who has ever been farther west than the banks of the river Seine. Away back in 1904 Monsieur le President Hamman spent half a year in the Wild West, was befriended by Buffalo Bill and on his return to France he wrote a book on his experiences called "Sur La Piste Des Bisons" (On the Buffalo Trail). Hamman was so imbued with the glamour and romance of the West that he wrote numerous articles for French publications and children's books on cowboy life and the Indians. In addition to his literary and artistic activities cowboy Joe engaged in producing western "horse operas" in Europe, under the screen name of Arizona Bill.

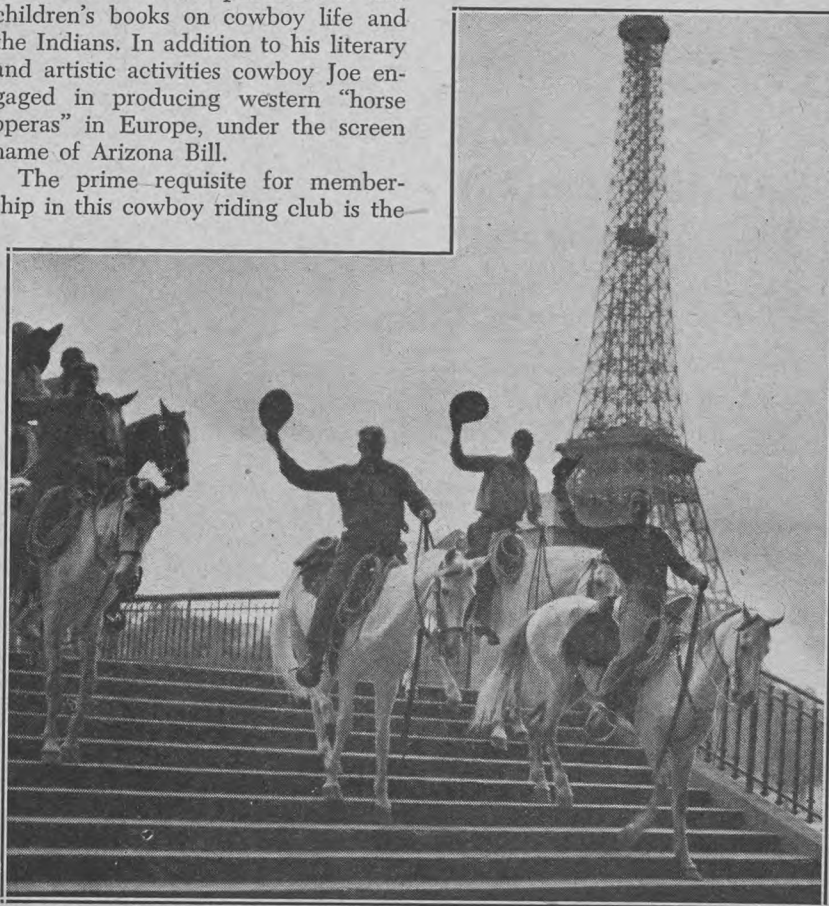
The prime requisite for membership in this cowboy riding club is the

possession of authentic western riding equipment from ten-gallon hat, cowboy-style shirt, a true stock saddle, Levi Strauss blue jeans, down to high-heeled boots and spurs. The acquisition of these items of western attire is not easy for these would-be cowboys in Paris, as ways and means for securing them from America are limited and present many difficulties.

Some of these "play cowboys" have their own horses but others rent their mounts from a riding stable near the Bois de Boulogne. They all take keen pleasure in caring for their horses, keeping their saddles and bridles oiled and polished after every ride. The technique of "ropin' and ridin'" in true western style has been gleaned from "rootin', tootin', shootin'" Wild West movies and from countless volumes of cowboy pulp magazines from America. Many long hours are spent in mastering the intricacies of spinning a lariat, and some of the more expert can really swing a "wicked loop."

And so the spirit of the Old West still lives (in modified form) on the banks of the Seine and around the Eiffel Tower, reincarnated in these ordinarily serious-minded business and professional men of Paris.

At the end of a perfect day of playing cowboy these "Buckaroos of the Bois de Boulogne" head back to their "menage" (stable) singing "Git Along Little Dogie," "Home on the Range" and other familiar cowboy ditties. After their ponies have been brushed and bedded down "Les Amis du Far West" (The Friends of the Far West) gather around to swap stories and partake of an aperitif (a drink unknown to cowboys of the West), before returning to their prosaic callings and their respective homes on the Seine.



Parisian "cowboys" ki-ying near the Eiffel Tower.



"Deer would peer in my windows and eat my young fruit trees."

The Deer

"To him who, in the love of nature, holds Communion with her visible forms, she speaks a various language."—William C. Bryant

by ROBERT H. NICHOLS

A FEW years ago when I lived in the northern part of Saskatchewan, hunting season was much looked forward to. A week before, out would come the guns to be oiled, and knives were sharpened in anticipation of the dressing out of the deer I would shoot. Day after day I would tramp miles and feel greatly cheered at night if I had seen even a fresh track during the day's hunting. But things have changed and I'm not just sure which way.

My wife and I decided we had lived in one place long enough, so we tried to decide where to move next. We had been East and about the only direction we could go was West. So we came to British Columbia. The main thing that attracted me to B.C. was the deer feeding along the highway as we came into Creston Valley. I thought to myself that here, indeed, was the hunter's paradise.

We bought a small farm of ten acres and made sure it was far enough out and the country still rugged, yet not so far but what we could get in and out easily. Well, we moved in and I bought two new guns and three hunting knives and prepared to take down the population of the B.C. deer. We moved into our new place in June and the hunting season didn't open until September 30, so I had to contain my murderous tendencies and content myself with strolls up the mountains, and watching the habits of my future roasts and steaks.

I gradually found out that the stories I had heard had not been exaggerated. Deer would peer in my windows, and eat my young fruit trees, nor could they be frightened away for any length of time by dogs, or chased away by the blasts of a double-barrelled shotgun. They loved my alfalfa fields and would graze in the yard.

Hunting season finally came and I went out full of hope, my mouth watering for the fat, juicy steaks I had seen every day in my own door yard.

The woods were bare and silent. Nothing stirred among the tall trees of the mountain slopes; and the secluded valleys were inhabited by calmly feeding does and wide-eyed fawns. The bucks had disappeared from the sight of man. I walked double my Saskatchewan mileage—not

in a straight line but up and down—and I finally shot my first buck. I was so thin and run down by this time that it was entirely eaten before I could manage to hunt further.

That was my last buck of the season. The deer must have read my mind the rest of the season, for I had given up in disgust by the end of October. I had hardly put my gun away before the deer were back in the door yard again. They ate my peas and beets, but disturbed nothing else, so I decided that in time we might live peacefully together.

That winter the deer roamed the orchard below me and were slaughtered by the farmers because they did much damage to the young fruit trees. They never touched any of mine, though they travelled by them every night.

The following spring there were many faces missing in the familiar herds that came back to our alfalfa field; and they had lost their fearless ways. They used to walk out of the bush and start in eating without bothering to inspect the field and the surrounding country, but now one doe would cautiously step out into the field and at every step would watch and listen. After everything looked safe to her she would call the fawns out to feed with her. Feed was still scarce and some of them would go right in the hay shed and eat their fill. I didn't mind, because it had been a hard winter.

The more I saw of the does and fawns, the less desire I had to shoot them. They are beautiful animals, and unless they do a lot of damage, they are welcome to stay. This year they seem more shy than ever, but when they come out in the field to graze I talk to them; and while at first they ran, now they watch with sharp ears erect and only seem a little nervous. When they are having their fawns we do not see them about much; but they come back and when they do they are not met by flaming gun, because these have been put away for good. Perhaps I am getting soft-hearted, but a live group of deer, quietly grazing, is a beautiful sight to me, and I hope they will always be with us.

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IDEAL FOR REGULARITY

Joe the Barber

Continued from page 9

Joe took one look, swallowed hard and said he had to go out to lunch and George would give her a haircut. As it was then going on for three o'clock, the excuse fell pretty flat, but it was the only one Joe could lay tongue to at the moment.

Myrnie just gave him a look, and smiled.

"Don't tell me you're afraid to cut my hair, Joe," she said.

"Heck, no!" Joe blustered, and he put his hands on Myrnie's thick blond mop, and that was it.

I went out and snickered about it to Sid, never thinking how George was going to get tied into it all, or how—on a spring day with the green buds bursting and the crocuses out and the early tulips showing against the sunny southern wall of the Masonic Temple, the pay-off was to come. At the time it just seemed to me George's chance to get a laugh or two back. I'm not sure that George did get a laugh out of it. He never laughed at people in trouble and anyone could see that Joe had stepped into a peck of it.

FOR perhaps six weeks his affair with Myrnie was the talk of Cranesville, and by then he'd had rather more than enough of her. He tried to get out from under and the roof fell in on him, Myrnie's mother pulling out the posts.

From being a bemused man Joe the barber became a desperate one. The woman never let up on him. She would berate him in private and in public, especially in public. At mere sight of her in the office he'd break out in a cold sweat. He couldn't sleep, and his nerves were shot. People began to sit around waiting for George to shave them, not fancying getting nicked by Joe's unsteady hands.

Something had to be done, and it was then Joe came up with his big one. It hit Cranesville like a minor hurricane. He invented for himself a wife; a wife who had been for years in an institution, and whom he had wrongfully forgotten for these two bemused months. He said he'd never mentioned her before because you just don't talk about that kind of thing. To hear Joe talk about this mentally unbalanced wife of his who bore his name and commanded his loyalty would break your heart and bring tears to your eyes. He gave her such a build-up that he almost began to believe in her himself, and a lot of people did who had no way of checking up Joe's history prior to his coming to Cranesville. But not Myrnie's mother.

All Cranesville waited now to see what she would do. They talked it over bridge tables, and on street corners men made bets on it. They figured she'd end up by bullying and badgering Joe into marrying Myrnie. There'd come a point—the way it was going—when Joe would break down and give up the fight. I guess Joe felt that way, too; and the only possibility he could see of getting shed of her and into the clear was somehow to have her believe his story.

That was where George came in.

The idea must have come like a flash of light to Joe, and he didn't wait at all. He went straight to Myrnie's

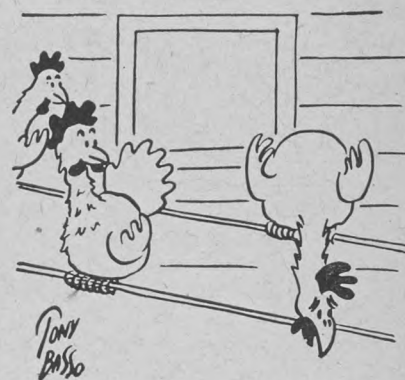
mother—something that took a bit of doing—and he said it wasn't fair she shouldn't believe him, and if she wouldn't believe him, would she believe George?

I suppose no greater compliment was ever paid George than to have her hesitate hardly at all, and then say, "If George Hill says it's so, I'd believe it."

Joe came back walking on air because he'd seen her shaken at last. If he could get by this, he was in the clear.

The rest was up to George. He would wait for the psychological moment and break it gently but very firmly to George what was required of him. But time and tide, and women like Myrnie's mother, wait for no man.

Sid and I got wind of it outside Spatz' store. We'd gone hunting adventure, which isn't far to find for any boy in April. We hadn't a thought of George then, even when we passed the Chinaman's and Mrs. Baker's boardinghouse where the windows were open and the faded curtains flapping in the spring wind, and Mrs. Baker and her hired help were shaking things out. We were wondering if we'd ever get enough money to buy an outboard motor like the one in Spatz' window when Myrnie and her mother came by, talking pretty loudly, and we heard the thing that set us



"When the poultry market goes up, I get an awful pain in the neck."

off for Joe's Barber Shop like a couple of rabbits, but stopping breathlessly to tip off a few people as we ran.

When we got there, George was sweeping up the floor after a cutting, and Llew Holtman had just climbed into Joe's chair for a shave, and got partly lathered-up.

IN a town like ours news travels fast, and pretty soon the place began to fill up, until Joe asked, "What's this, a mob scene?" and then it must have come to him and he went kind of sickly and said, "Is that demented woman coming here?" and I said, "Yes, sir—me and Sid—" and Joe the barber said, "Damn and double damn," and he stopped lathering Llew and went straight over and told George what it was all about. He put a hand on George's shoulder and said, "George Hill, you see me through this business and I'll never lay a mean tongue on you again, and come Sattiday you'll draw twelve dollars from now on." We all waited for George's answer, and at last he said, "Please leave me out of this, Joe;" and Joe took a quick look out the window and the sweat stood out on him. George just stood there shaking his head sadly and saying he wished a lot he could do something, and if there was anything else he could do for Joe, why,

he knew he'd only have to name it; but George said it the way a man does who knows he's on the spot. And suddenly Joe blew up.

"Damn you, George," he shouted. "You do this little favor for me or you're through. So help me, if you don't, I'll fire you so damn fast you won't know what hit you."

And then there wasn't time for any more talk, because the door opened and Myrnie's mother came tromping in with Myrnie herself in tow.

All of us, except Llew Holtman, who just had to lie there in the tilted chair, half lathered, had backed through the curtains into the pool-

room; and you could have cut the hush with a knife.

Myrnie's mother hardly gave Joe so much as a look. It was George she was after and to him she spoke.

"George Hill," she said, "this man"—and she recognized Joe's presence with a jerk of the thumb—"says you know he has a sick wife back East. Is that true or false?"

I clung to one of the faded mulberry curtains, peering round, and to this day I remember the smell of it—a smell of dust and stale smoke and barber's perfume and hair tonic. I remember thinking how awful it would be if George got fired and we'd

never come here again to get our hair cut by him, and maybe he'd have to give up his room at Mrs. Baker's and his meals at the Chinaman's, and somebody else would inherit his white coat and sweep up the hair cuttings, and it'd never be the same again. I remember thinking, too, with a kind of youthful sophistry, how only a few simple words would do the trick, and wouldn't that be better for everyone, after all; and I almost willed George to say them.

Then George put up a hand and scruffed his ring of hair, and he looked at Joe and at Myrnie and at Myrnie's mother.

"I'm sure awful sorry about this," he said, "but I just can't say what isn't so. I guess Joe here's made a kind of mistake about my knowing."

Myrnie's mother gave Joe a look that wilted him. She said, "Thank you, George Hill," and then she looked at Joe again, and said, "That'll be all for now. Come, Myrnie," and they both went out, and I don't think anybody bothered much to notice how Myrnie walked or how she wore her clothes.

Nobody spoke, or even shifted their feet.

Then George said, "I'm sorry, Joe. I had to say the truth. You know that, Joe."

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Joe took quite a while to speak; his voice sounded tight and knotted in his throat.

"I told you how it'd be," he said. "You're fired. As of now. Get out."

IN a kind of daze George Hill took off his white barber's coat with its careful mendings and put it away on a shelf where they kept things like that. He pulled on his own jacket slowly, and as slowly reached down his hat from the peg.

Sid nudged me and gulped, and I gave him a prod, gulping a bit myself, because everything was ended now and we'd never come here again and find George, with that friendly smile, welcoming us. In that moment I hated Joe the barber, as only a boy can hate—a pure kind of hatred, pure with the indignation that only the young and still innocent in heart can feel; and when I saw the look on his face I hated him still more. He had been watching George with a kind of unbelief, as if he couldn't quite credit anybody giving up anything that meant as much as this job did to him, and all over a few words that could be so easily said; but now there was a kind of triumph in Joe's face almost as if he was glad to see George being fired and leaving.



"Grace, have you noticed the money we've been saving since we got electricity on the farm?"

I was trying to figure it when someone said, "Well, Joe, how'll you handle those two females now?"

Joe turned on the questioner.

"Does it matter?" he said, and you'd think to hear him he'd lost his fear of them, and of anything. He lifted his hand and brought it down such a whack on the arm of the chair that Llew Holtman almost took off, lather and all. "My God," Joe shouted, and it wasn't like a curse at all, but like the sealing of something, as I remember it now, thinking back on it all, "I guess this town can afford one guy who won't sell out at any price. I guess we can afford that."

I knew then what George had meant about the very things a man poked fun at being the ones that meant most to him after all. And I knew, too, what the look on Joe's face was; it was the look of a man who thinks he has stubbed his toe on a stone only to find he's stumbled on a nugget, but I didn't think of it in those words just then.

I was listening, and Sid was listening with me, to what Joe was saying.

"You lads," Joe, the barber, was saying, "run after him. Tell him I say if he's interested in a job there's one open to him here just as long as he cares to work for a character like me."

Sid and I looked at each other. I grabbed Sid's arm, and we ran. We ran, the breath tight in our young throats, under the budding trees, to catch George Hill and tell him.

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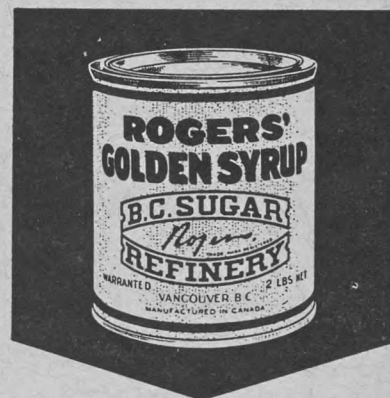


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The Countrywoman

LIFE is very funny—when you are young, or so it seemed to us. My older sister Bennetta and I used to make up stories and tell them to each other, to our younger sister, Alice, or any other member of the family who was willing to listen. Then we started writing them down. The tiny attic space in our one-storey bungalow, too small to be put to any other use, became our writing room. There we spent long hours studying and writing. We would read our stories aloud to each other and laugh merrily over the ways and predicaments of our 'characters.'

"I saved some of the pieces and copied them in longhand into an exercise book and showed them to my high school teacher, Miss Sigurbjorg Stefanasson. Sometimes she would read one of my stories aloud to the class. That was the first real encouragement I had in writing. By the time I finished high school grades I had quite a fat exercise book filled with essays and stories.

"Later, when after a year of teaching in a country school, I joined the Gimli school staff and became a fellow-teacher of Miss Stefanasson, I confessed to her that I had copied out only the 'least ridiculous stories' for her. She laughed and said that she wished that she had been permitted to see the 'funny stories'."

Kristine Benson Kristofferson, author of "Tanya," was telling me, in a personal interview in her little home in Gimli, how she came to write a novel that was accepted by a publisher, and is now being serialized in *The Country Guide*. She had taken normal school training after finishing high school and taught for nine years. To her writing was still "fun." She finds it relaxing. During the summer vacation of 1945 she occupied herself with writing Tanya. She wrote in longhand and finished the novel in about six weeks. The bulky manuscript lay in a bureau drawer for the next two years, being taken out for an occasional reading by herself or an interested friend. Kristine frankly admits she enjoys re-living the experiences of the characters she creates. Tanya and Joe were very real to her from the start and it was their love story she wanted to tell. She had the underlying theme of the story and the two main characters clearly in mind, when she commenced to write. The others, to put it in her own words "simply walked into the story." They in turn enlisted her sympathies and became real people to her, as they do to her readers.

She fitted them into a background, with which she is thoroughly familiar. Of course there is no such actual locale as Pelican Bay. But those who have lived along the shores of Lake Winnipeg for many years, or those who have visited, perhaps briefly, on summer holidays will be the first to say that the story is satisfying because it so accurately depicts the "atmosphere" of the area and the types and ways of the people. Those who live in other parts of Canada or in other lands, by reading the story, can better "picture" life in a part of Manitoba.

Mr. and Mrs. Gisli Benson of Gimli are of Icelandic origin. He was brought to Canada from Iceland, as a child of two years, while she arrived as a young girl of 17. Mr. Benson has spent his life along the shores of Lake Winnipeg working as a fisherman and carpenter. They had a family of four children, three girls and the youngest, a son, Harvey. Bennetta, the oldest girl, decided to be a nurse and entered Selkirk Hospital to take her training. A great sadness fell on the family when Bennetta died, before finishing her training course. Kristine and Alice became school teachers.

As a teacher, Kristine lamented the lack of good entertainment material for school concerts. She told me: "We would get catalogues and order listed plays that seemed likely to suit our purposes, paying a dollar for a play and then find that it was not worth putting on. Then I thought that I would make a try at writing a play for my scholars to put on at the annual Christmas concert. It was fun doing it and the children got quite a bit of enjoyment out of acting a play that their teacher had

A personal interview with a young homemaker and mother throws some interesting sidelights on the talents and experiences that have combined in the making of a new writer upon the Canadian scene

by AMY J. ROE

written. It was so arranged that every child in the room had a part, no matter how small, perhaps just singing in the chorus. I worked some of the plays around old legends and one was about a family album. The parents were interested and came to see their children take their parts. During the eight years I taught in Gimli school, we had to repeat some of our Christmas concerts, two, three or more times to accommodate all who wanted to hear them. Some told me that they came more than once to the same concert."



Kristine Benson Kristofferson, author of "Tanya."

"You kept those plays in written form, I hope," I said, realizing that once an author has something accepted for publication, other pieces of her writing may be in demand later.

"Oh yes, I finished them. I always must finish anything I start—and that holds true for writing as well as sewing. I suppose that it goes back to early home training. There may be six or eight of those old school plays stored away somewhere in a bureau drawer."

IN August, 1946, Kristine Benson was married to Harold Kristofferson. He had lived on a farm near Pinawa, Manitoba. His father is Norwegian and his mother Swedish. He served in the Army from 1942 to 1947. He was slated to take part in the winter Muskox Expedition, but a change of plans altered things at the last moment for him. His work with the Interim Army brought him to Gimli, where he has since remained, now being a civilian worker at the huge R.C.A.F. Training Station, located some few miles out of the town.

The Kristoffersons now have three healthy, active and alert sons: Keith aged four, Kenneth, three, and Allan, two years. With their inheritance they can be truly described "Scandinavian," to which their blond heads, skin coloring and robust little

bodies give strong testimony. Their mother reads, writes and speaks the Icelandic language readily.

For a year after her marriage Mrs. Kristofferson continued teaching. She likes housework, does all her own sewing and takes pride in picking and canning local fruit such as blueberries. With the arrival of her sons she found herself too completely absorbed in the management of her home and care of the babies to even think of "Tanya." She was now so fully occupied with life and living, that she gave little thought to making up stories about other people's lives.

Alice, now Mrs. A. R. Pascoe, took the bulky manuscript of "Tanya" to her home in Winnipeg. She showed it to a teacher friend, Lillian Edwards, who also had secretarial experience. They enjoyed re-reading the story. Miss Edwards remarked that it was a pity that the story was not in a form more convenient for handling and said that it should be typed. She offered to make typewritten copies of it during off-work hours. Kristine received the typed manuscript in the fall of 1949. It now looked rather impressive and her interest in the story revived. Maybe she should send it to a publisher! But she knew nothing about publishers and their ways. She felt that she knew very little about "how a book should be written." She had little hope of ever seeing her story in print, but at least she might get some help from the criticism of her writing.

THEN one day, quite by chance, she came across a small notice in a daily newspaper announcing a \$1,000 fiction award for 1950, offered by The Ryerson Press, Toronto. She packaged the neatly typed manuscript and sent it off and waited.

After the closing date of the contest, she received a letter to the effect that no Canadian novel submitted had been judged worthy of the award for that year—but that "Tanya" was considered to be "among the best two stories submitted by Canadian writers." The publishers were considering it as a possible book for sale in the fall of 1951, providing she would make some revisions. She protested that she was much too busy with her home and two small boys, now two and one years old and with "an expected arrival" to undertake any re-writing. The editor wrote again encouragingly about her "book" and urged her to further consider working over the story.

Baby Allan arrived and had some digestive disturbances. It was not until he was two months old that his mother could possibly think of sitting down to writing again. A kind Icelandic neighbor volunteered to come in and take care of the three little boys and do the housework and so permit Kristine to get on with the job. Miss Stefanasson, her former teacher, gave what help she could on construction and, later, with the task of proofreading. Neither had had any experience in preparation of copy for printing.

By now, publishers' terms had become household words with the Kristofferson family. Kristine chuckled as she told of how one morning, when she was busy with proof correction, Keith and Kenny demanded "manuscript and pencils for writing a book." She gave them some sheets of paper and pencils and they retired to the living room. Shortly afterwards she heard three-year-old Keith say: "I've finished chapter one. I am going to write chapter two," and younger Kenny's voice echo the identical words enthusiastically. She turned from her work to see the two small boys, scribbling their version of "chapter two," in pencil upon the living room wall.

ICELANDERS have a great respect for achievements in intellectual fields. When one of their race makes a distinctive contribution, or is honored, he or she is greeted with warm acclaim and a quiet pride, that is general yet intimate—almost as if the individual is drawn into a close family circle. When the news got about that Kristine Benson Kristofferson was to have a book (Please turn to page 85)

An Autumn Packet

Recipe for Friendship

*Kind thoughts kept in strict seclusion,
Kind deeds left for folks to guess,
Solve no problems or confusion,
Chart no roads to happiness.*

*Speak, then, all that's worth the saying;
Do, when doing is required.*

*Silence helps none lost or straying;
Gestures, none grown worn and tired.*

—FLOYD T. WOOD.

Leaves

Bring memories of old gardens

by DEREK NEVILLE

I HAVE a friend who always encloses two or three leaves whenever she writes to me—leaves from her garden.

Now one might very reasonably expect the accompanying letter to be rather falsely sentimental. People who send pressed petals and such things through the post are often guilty of such expressions. But I may say with all sincerity that this friend's letters are among the sanest—and also the most beautiful—that I have ever received. Although French by birth, my friend writes in English and, as is often the case, her command of our language is itself a remarkable thing. She has just the right word for everything.

I met her only once, with her husband, in their garden, a place of fine lawns and magnificent trees. They had put their hearts into the making of it, and it is because their hearts are still in it that I am sent leaves in every letter.

There might have been a time in my own life when I would have laughed at the very idea of receiving an odd leaf or two by post. But not now. Indeed, I always look for them, and would be disappointed if they were not there. Sometimes, in the autumn, a wonderful blood-red miracle is spilled out of the envelope against the white tablecloth at breakfast. And I let all my correspondence slip out of my mind for a moment or two while I regard it. And suddenly, surrounded as I may be with all the appurtenances of ordinary living—cups, plates, toast, and marmalade—suddenly the rain pours down on me, or the wind stirs out of the void, or the sun throws a tracery of cool shadows before my eyes. Or sometimes I just let my mind wander back through the veins of the leaf until I am in my friend's garden once more—standing by their pool where a frog is climbing on to a large green island among the water lilies.

There is, I am sure, nothing sentimental about all this. Sentiment there may be. But it is the kind of sentiment that we need if we are to keep our minds from getting caked with the dust, and even the grime, of an age of bricks, cement, and steel. It was Thoreau who wrote that wonderfully vivid sentence: "No dust settles on the grass."

My memories of leaves are varied. When I was a small boy I was given

A miscellany of ideas concerned with sentiment and practical matters, presented by a variety of contributors

a piece of garden for myself, and was told that I could do whatever I wished with it but that I *must* keep it tidy. It was a rough piece next to a hedge and in the middle of it was a French oak tree. Oh, those leaves! They were the curse of my small garden. I hated them because they always spoiled my efforts at neatness. The roots were bad enough, as can be imagined, but a child has no desire to dig deeply. It is enough for him if the surface is scratched. Those leaves cheated me out of my garden, until, one day, I defeated them. I watched the gardener sowing sweet peas, for which he was renowned. I watched the whole careful process, and then I went back to my plot, where I spent much time in sifting earth, since that seemed to be the major operation. That summer I had the house filled with my sweet peas. Everybody knew about them, or if they didn't—I told them!

Then I remember rhubarb leaves and mulberry leaves. They had, and still have, a mysterious quality about them. What a size some rhubarb leaves can be! I think we often miss the marvels in that out-of-the-way

patch, so intent are we upon looking at the stems.

I have a four-leafed clover, but I did not find it myself. It was given to me by a person who always seems to find them with the greatest of ease. I like to think that it brings me luck, but I have little tangible evidence.

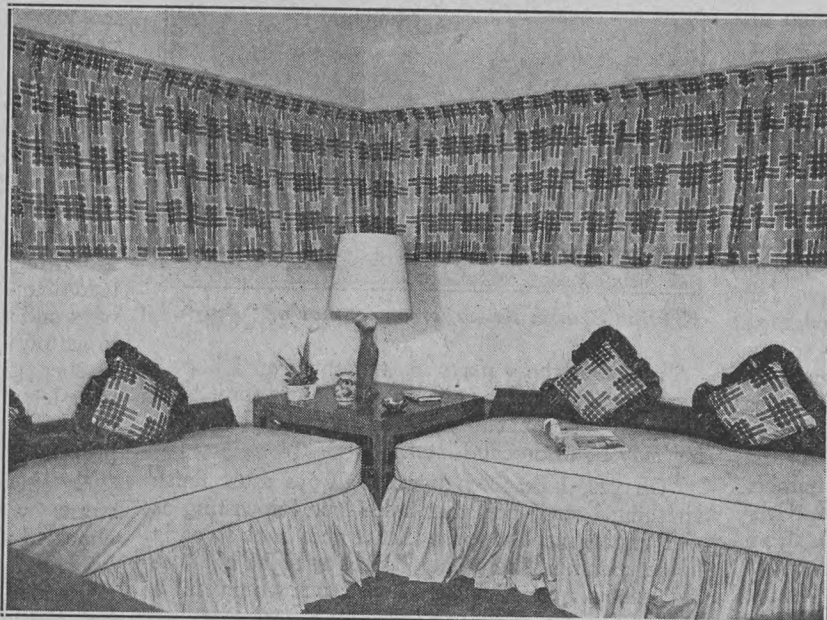
The infinite variety of leaf is something to be wondered at even by those of us who know little of botany. Not only are there countless shapes, innumerable colors, and a wide range of textures—there is also a whole realm of perfume in them. Perhaps for freshness of color it might be difficult to find anything to beat parsley at precisely the right moment in its career. That green is like a flame in its intensity. It burns and gleams and could never be conveyed on canvas because the life in it would be missing.

Holly, laurel, ivy, chestnut (have you noticed how young horse chestnut leaves resemble a vast assembly of ballet dancers?), primrose, kingcup, geranium—these are all leaves we have looked at, looked at for long until we are absorbed in the minutest details of them.

Ideas for that Den

A small, attractive room with a triple purpose

by LOUISE PRICE BELL



How a small room may be attractively furnished with gay touches of color.

THE room in your house which you use for a den may be small and you have perhaps thought that you could not make much use of it. Take heart it has possibilities! Get two studio couches that are single-bed in width. Place them at right-angles along two walls, with a square table in the corner. You thus provide sleeping space for two and seating room for six or eight people. It makes for a guest room or a social center for the young folks on occasion.

Make curtains of some gay material such as gold and blue or a rust

and blue plaid. Make slip covers for the couches with a plain rust or gold material. These may be piped with a darker shade or in the plaid. Make small pillows and covers for them of the curtain material, with a ruffle of the plain. None of this will take much work and you can easily manage the sewing part of it yourself. The den may also serve as an office center if you have a small desk or writing table and storage space for records. Thus you have a room, which is at all times attractive and may serve in three ways.

And then? Well then, sometimes, if you look into it well enough, and are still enough, you can hang with it on the tree, all night and all day, month by month, from pre-birth to after-death. The rain can drip, drip from the leaf above to you, from you to the leaf beneath. You can take in the dawns and the sunsets, let the dew descend upon you, and dry yourself off in the sun. Or, at night, you can look up at the still, calm stars.

Once achieve this adventure in consciousness, and you have discovered leaves for always. Then, afterwards, your garden is filled with a million whispering friends and the universe is in your own veins as it is in theirs.

That must be what has happened to my friend. That is why she always sends me a leaf through the mail.

Records Help

KEEP a card in your purse upon which you have the sizes of clothing each family member wears. When shopping, you spy a "good buy," you'll know exactly the size you want when you refer to the record card.

Make a notation of the exact length and width of window shades, on the wooden slats that slide in the bottom hem, and you'll have the data when you need to replace shades.

Keep a record of articles you borrow and loan, in some special place, and you won't forget to return, or remind others to do the same.

As you notice little things that need to be done around the house, make a record of them in a little book kept for that purpose. Then when Handy-Andy has some free time, produce your book and let him start.

Make notations when linen supplies are low and keep in purse so that when you see sales, you'll know, by referring to your record, just what you need to replace.—L.P.B.

Have a Flower Party

Intended for younger groups

by WALTER KING

SPECIAL parties are the ones remembered the longest. And for something that will bring the greatest joy to the greatest number, a fashionable flower shower is just the thing.

If you plan on running a flower party send out decorated invitation cards to several of your friends. Let the cards read, "You are invited to attend my flower party next Friday at 7:30 p.m. Please bring a small bouquet of flowers with you, wild or tame. A prize is offered for the best bouquet. All flowers donated will be sent on Saturday to bring week-end cheer to the sick."

Have everything ready when the guests arrive. Glass jars or tin cans decorated with colored paper, make a gala show. Tag each bouquet with the name of the donor. You will be surprised at the fine array of flowers that come in, and, of course, these go

to decorate the table at lunch time.

To decide the prize winner, it is always best to let guests act as judges. Pass around ballot papers and let each guest write his or her choice of winner. After presentation of the prize, games become the order of the day just as at any other party.

If a regular flower club is planned, a president and secretary are elected but all members act as "spotters." Whenever one of the "spotters" reports an illness of one of the members, a relative, a school friend, or a teacher, the secretary sends out notices and the club members rally to a special gathering where arrangements are made for a bouquet of flowers. These are tagged with an appropriate card of "good wishes for a speedy recovery," and delivered by one of the members. A well-selected, tastefully arranged bouquet of wild flowers will bring great joy to the heart of a sick friend. And remember, it is the thought behind the gift that counts most.

If there is an overabundance of flowers after the party "shower" or the flower club meeting, the extra bouquets may be sent to a hospital, an aged person's home, or to the house of a permanent invalid.

Cake Toppings

Thin peanut butter with coffee, add powdered sugar and spread on cake.

* * *

Sprinkle cake with colored sugar; chocolate cake with powdered sugar.

* * *

Sprinkle flavored gelatin powder over top of hot cake—lemon or cherry on a white cake . . . lime or raspberry on chocolate or molasses cake.

* * *

Mash a ripe banana and add enough confectioner's sugar for spreading well for a "different" topping for gingerbread, or chocolate cake.

* * *

Use coffee, instead of milk or water, for chocolate icing.

* * *

Whip two tablespoons of fruit jelly with the white of an egg when making boiled, or seven-minute icing. The flavor is delicious!

* * *

Sprinkle top of unbaked cake with cocoanut—result, a delicious toasted cocoanut topping already made for you.

* * *

Make a meringue of two egg whites and one cup of brown sugar, spread on unbaked cake, and when cake is baked, meringue will be cooked and brown and cake ready to eat.

* * *

When cake icing seems too stiff, soften it by going over it with a silver knife, dipped repeatedly in hot milk.

* * *

When boiled icing fails to thicken sufficiently, add confectioner's sugar until of proper spreading consistency.

* * *

A teaspoon of vinegar beaten into a boiled icing will insure a none-brittle frosting that will cut easily.

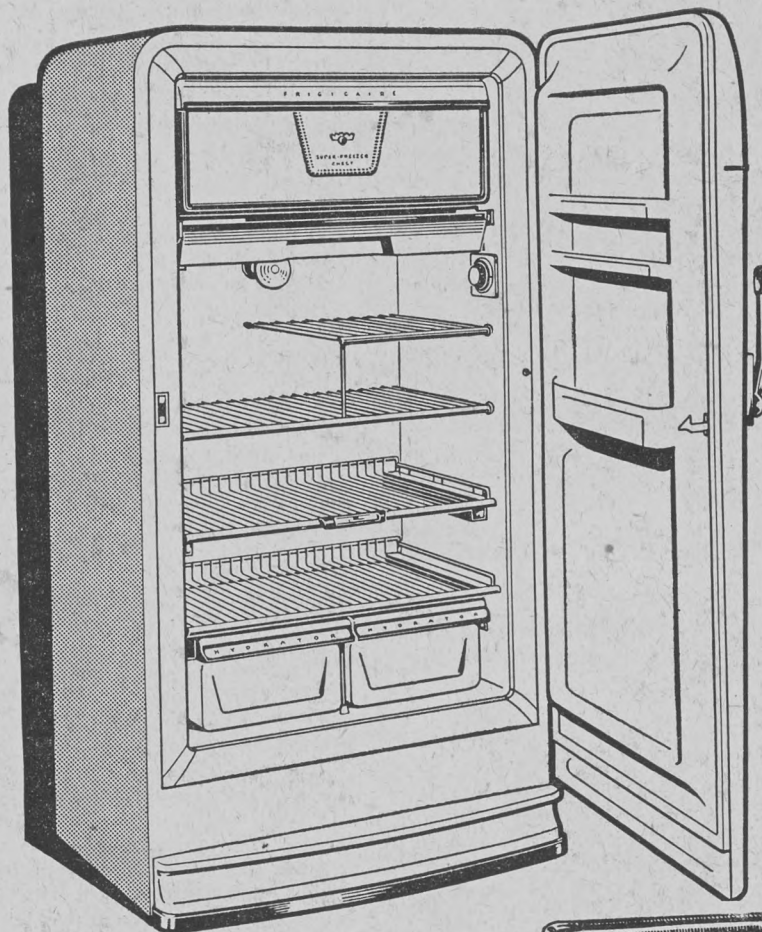
* * *

To keep icing from running off cake, dust with fine powdered sugar before icing it.

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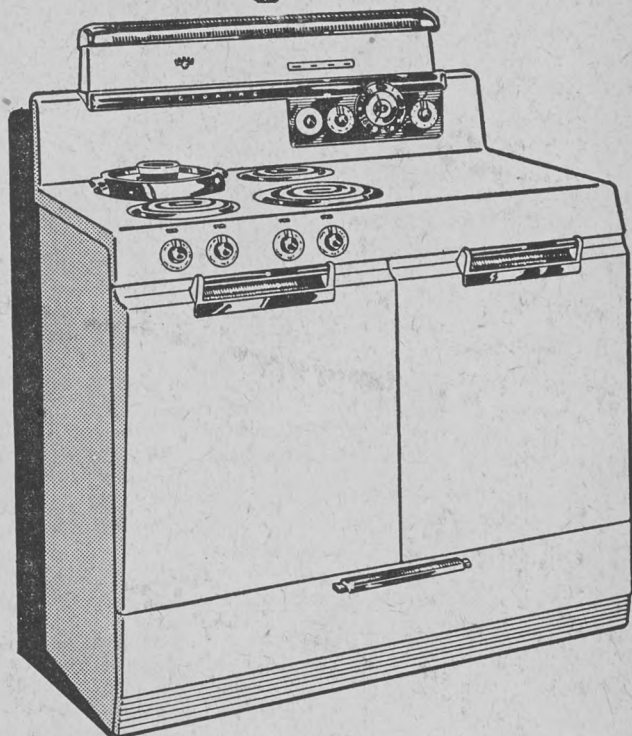
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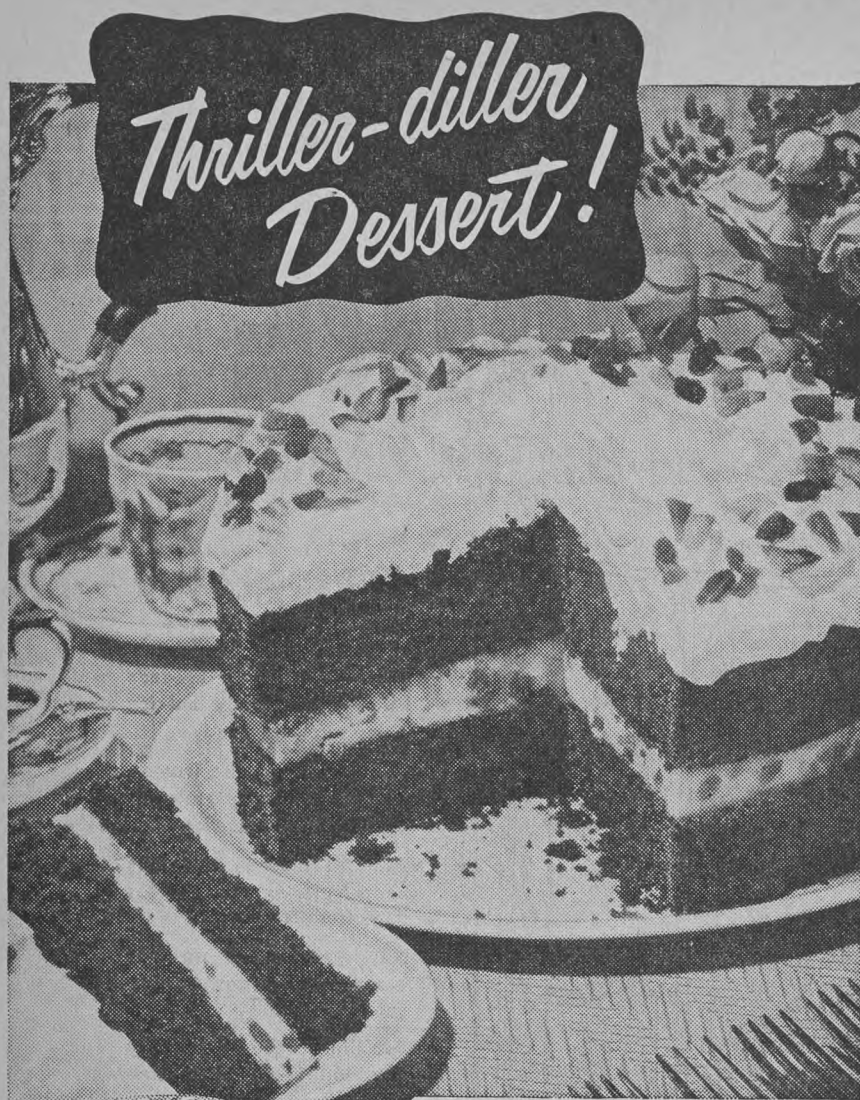
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GINGER-CREAM DEVIL'S FOOD

1/2 cup cocoa
1 1/2 cups fine granulated sugar
1 1/2 cups milk
2 cups sifted pastry flour
or 1 3/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
3 tsps. Magic Baking Powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
9 tbsps. butter or margarine
2 eggs, well beaten
1 1/2 tsps. vanilla

Grease two 8-inch round layer-cake pans and line bottoms with greased paper. Preheat oven to 350° (moderate). Combine cocoa and 3/4 cup of the sugar in a saucepan; gradually blend in 3/8 cup of the milk; bring to the boil, stirring until sugar dissolves; cool thoroughly. Sift flour, Magic Baking Powder, baking soda and salt together three times. Cream butter or margarine; gradually blend in remaining 3/4 cup sugar. Add well-beaten eggs part at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in cold chocolate mixture. Combine remaining 3/8 cup milk and vanilla. Add flour mixture to creamed mixture about a quarter at a

time, alternating with three additions of milk and 2 tbsps. cut-up preserved or candied ginger in double boiler. Combine 1/4 cup granulated sugar, 2 1/2 tbsps. corn starch and 1/4 tsp. salt; slowly stir in milk mixture. Pour back into pan and cook over boiling water, stirring constantly, until smoothly thickened; cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until no raw flavor of starch remains—about 7 minutes longer. Slowly stir hot mixture into 1 slightly-beaten egg; return to double boiler and cook over hot water, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Remove from heat; gradually stir in 1 tsp. butter or margarine and 1/4 tsp. vanilla. Cool this filling thoroughly before spreading on cake.

Ginger-Cream Filling: Scald 1 1/2 cups milk and 2 tbsps. cut-up preserved or candied ginger in double boiler. Combine 1/4 cup granulated sugar, 2 1/2 tbsps. corn starch and 1/4 tsp. salt; slowly stir in milk mixture. Pour back into pan and cook over boiling water, stirring constantly, until smoothly thickened; cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until no raw flavor of starch remains—about 7 minutes longer. Slowly stir hot mixture into 1 slightly-beaten egg; return to double boiler and cook over hot water, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Remove from heat; gradually stir in 1 tsp. butter or margarine and 1/4 tsp. vanilla. Cool this filling thoroughly before spreading on cake.

Cucumber Favorites

There's nothing like crisp, juicy pickles to add the final touch to a meal

SWEET or sour, alone or mixed, cucumber pickles seem to be the family favorite. They give the appetite a lift and add a tang to mid-winter pot roasts and stews.

Crisp, juicy pickles are made from firm mature vegetables fresh from the garden. Use a high quality vinegar and, to prevent cloudiness, salt that is not iodized. Alum, when added to a recipe, is for extra crispness. As far as is known, it is perfectly safe but use it sparingly. Store your pickles in a cool place and leave them for at least two months before using.

Serve any of these pickles with a roast, a stew or a hamburger steak, a sandwich or a snack. They'll add sparkle to winter meals.

Million-Dollar Pickles

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 4 qts. medium cucumbers | 4 c. sugar |
| 1 qt. medium onions | 4 c. cider vinegar |
| 2 to 4 green peppers | 4 tsp. turmeric |
| 3/4 c. salt | 4 tsp. mustard seed |
| 2 1/2 qts. water | 4 tsp. celery seed |
| | 2 pimentos |

Slice cucumbers and onions. Chop green peppers. Soak in brine made of salt and water overnight. Drain. Combine sugar, vinegar, pimento and spices. Bring to a boil; pour over cucumbers. Simmer for two minutes; pack into sterilized jars and seal.

Nine-Day Pickles

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 lbs. small cucumbers | 6 c. white vinegar |
| 1 c. coarse salt | 6 c. sugar |
| 7 c. water | 1 1/2 tsp. allspice |
| 1 c. cider vinegar | Small stick cinnamon |
| 1 1/2 tsp. alum | |

Wash cucumbers and place in crock. Add brine made of salt and water. Let stand seven days.

Wash and drain; place in kettle. Add cider vinegar and alum. Add water to cover. Simmer 2 hours; pour off liquid. Split cucumbers in half. Heat vinegar, sugar and spice. Pour over cucumbers and let stand overnight. Drain and boil syrup again. Pour over cucumbers; let stand overnight and drain. Boil syrup; pour over cucumbers in sterilized jars and seal immediately.

Crisp Cucumber Chips

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 6 cucumbers | 1 1/2 tsp. mustard seed |
| 2 medium onions | |
| 2 T. salt | 1 1/2 tsp. celery seed |
| 2 c. cider vinegar | 1 1/2 tsp. ginger |
| 1/2 tsp. turmeric | |

Choose cucumbers about 6 inches long. Do not peel. Slice cucumbers and onions, add salt and let stand one hour. Rinse quickly with water and drain. Combine remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Add cucumbers and onions; boil four minutes. Pack in sterilized jars and seal.

Bread and Butter Pickles

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 25 medium cucumbers | 2 tsp. mustard seed |
| 1/2 c. salt | 2 tsp. turmeric |
| 12 onions | 2 tsp. celery seed |
| 1 qt. cider vinegar | 2 tsp. cassia buds |
| 2 c. sugar | |

Slice cucumbers and onions; sprinkle with salt. Cover with ice water. Soak for three hours and drain. Combine vinegar, sugar and spices and heat to boiling. Add cucumbers and onions and heat for two minutes but do not boil. Fill sterilized jars and seal. Makes 4 quarts.

Company Pickles

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 10 medium cucumbers | 2 T. mixed pickling spice |
| 8 c. sugar | 4 c. cider vinegar |
| 5 tsp. salt | |

Cover whole cucumbers with boiling water. Allow to stand till next morning and drain. Repeat for three mornings. On fifth day drain and slice in 1/2-inch pieces. Combine sugar, spices, salt and vinegar. Bring to boil and pour over cucumbers. Let stand two days. On third day bring to boil and seal in hot sterilized jars. Makes seven pints.

Ice-water Pickles

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 1/2 lbs. medium cucumbers | 3 stalks celery |
| 9 small onions | 3 c. cider vinegar |
| 1 1/2 tsp. mustard seed | 1/4 c. salt |
| | 3/4 c. sugar |

Wash cucumbers and slice crosswise. Soak in ice water for three hours. Drain and pack in three pint jars. In each jar put 3 onions, 1 1/2 tsp. mustard seed and stalk of celery. Combine vinegar, salt and sugar and bring to a boil. Pour over cucumbers; seal at once.

Dill Pickles

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 24 large cucumbers | 3 strips red pepper |
| 3/8 tsp. powdered alum | 2 c. cider vinegar |
| 3 cloves garlic | 1/2 c. coarse salt |
| 6 heads dill | 6 c. water |

Cover cucumbers with cold water and allow to stand overnight in cool place. Pack in 3 sterilized quart jars; leave room for seasonings. Add to each jar 1/8 tsp. powdered alum, a clove garlic, a strip red hot pepper and 2 heads fresh dill. Combine vinegar, salt and water and bring to a boil. Fill jars with hot solution. Top each with a fresh grape leaf for color. Seal immediately; store in cool place for 6 weeks before using.

Pickled Beets

For each quart use:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 lb. beets | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1/2 c. beet liquid | 3 T. pickling spice |
| 2 c. white vinegar | 1 1/2 medium onions |
| 1/2 c. sugar | |

Wash beets, remove tops and cook until tender. Drain and save cooking liquid. Remove skins and slice. Slice onions. Tie spices in bag; combine with remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Add beets and onions; boil for five minutes; remove spices. Pack into hot sterilized jars and seal.

Watermelon Pickle

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 lbs. prepared rind | 2 T. whole cloves |
| 2 qts. water | 10 2-inch pieces stick cinnamon |
| 1 T. calcium oxide | 1 qt. cider vinegar |
| 2 T. whole allspice | 4 lbs. sugar |
| | 1 qt. water |

To prepare rind trim off the skin and pink flesh from a firm not overripe watermelon. Cut in pieces and soak for one hour in limewater made from two quarts water and calcium oxide (buy this at the drug store). Drain and cover with fresh water. Cook for two hours or until tender; add more water as needed. Drain. Put spices in cheesecloth bag; add to vinegar, water and sugar. Bring to a boil then add rind. Boil gently two hours. Soak overnight in syrup then remove spices. Bring to boil for one minute; pack in hot sterilized jars, fill with liquid and seal. Makes five pints.

Onion Relish

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 1/2 c. onion | 1 c. sugar |
| 1/2 c. green pepper | 1 1/2 tsp. salt |
| 1/4 c. sweet red pepper | 1 c. white vinegar |

Grind onion and peppers coarsely or chop very fine, then measure. Cover with hot water; let stand 5 minutes and drain well. Add sugar, salt and vinegar. Simmer 25 minutes (do not boil). Pack in hot sterilized jars, seal at once. Makes 2 pints. Extra good with hot dogs or hamburgers.

Pork Loaf Specials

Now is the time to serve canned pork for lunch or supper

ECONOMY-MINDED home-makers will serve canned pork often this fall. With the decline in price it has become more than a hurry-up meat to serve in an emergency and will be served often for snacks, luncheon or supper.

It is good served cold in sandwiches, in salads or included on a cold meat plate, but it is extra good pan-fried with cheese, baked or included in a casserole dish.

To fry a canned pork loaf or a mixture of beef and pork in a luncheon loaf dip the slices first in catsup, then in crumbs or spread each side with mustard, dip in crumbs, egg, then crumbs again and fry. Serve it piping hot with scrambled or fried eggs; with sausage, bacon or pancakes.

Baked Stuffed Onions

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6 large onions | ¾ c. condensed tomato soup |
| ¾ c. soft bread crumbs | Salt and pepper |
| ¾ c. diced canned pork | Grated cheese |

Remove outer skin from onions. Cook in boiling salted water for 10 minutes. Drain well. Remove centers of onions, leaving a shell just thick enough to retain its shape. Chop onion removed from center and combine with bread crumbs, finely diced pork, tomato soup and seasonings. Fill onion shell with mixture; top with grated cheese. Bake at 350° F. for 40 minutes. Serves 6.

Glazed Pork Loaf

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 tin canned pork | 2 T. orange juice |
| ¼ c. honey | |

Remove whole loaf at once; pour over the honey and orange juice. Bake at 350° F. for 30 minutes, basting frequently.

Hawaiian Meat Loaf

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 tins canned pork | 2 tsp. salt |
| 1 egg | 1 chopped pimento |
| ¾ c. crushed pineapple and juice | 1 c. bread crumbs |

Mince meat, add beaten egg, chopped pimento and pineapple. Stir in bread crumbs. Arrange 3 slices bacon in bottom of meat loaf pan. Pack meat mixture over it. Arrange 2 more slices bacon on top. Bake 350° F. for 25 minutes.

Stuffed Tomato Salad

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 6 firm ripe tomatoes | 1 T. chopped parsley |
| 1 tin canned pork | ¼ c. grated carrot |
| ¼ c. diced celery | Salad dressing |
- Salt and pepper

Wash but do not peel tomatoes. Remove cores and separate into quarters to within 1 inch of the bottom. Cube canned pork; combine with celery, parsley

and carrot. Add salad dressing, salt and pepper to taste. Gently spread out the tomato quarters and fill the centers with the meat mixture. Place each stuffed tomato on a crisp lettuce leaf. Serve with cabbage salad. Serves 6.

Pork and Macaroni Loaf

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1½ c. hot milk | 2 c. cooked macaroni |
| ½ c. fat | 2 T. chopped parsley |
| 4 eggs | ¼ c. chopped onion |
| 1 c. grated cheese | 1 green pepper |
| 2 c. chopped canned pork | |
| 1 pimento | |

Add fat to scalded milk; when melted pour mixture over beaten eggs; add remaining ingredients. Mix well and place in greased casserole. Set in pan of hot water. Bake until firm at center at 350° F. Serve hot with a mushroom sauce.

Meat and Cheese Sandwich

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 tin canned pork | ½ c. cracker crumbs |
| 6 slices cheese | ½ tsp. celery salt |
| 1 egg | |
| 2 T. milk | |

Slice canned pork loaf from narrow end into 12 thin slices. Make a "sandwich" by placing a slice of cheese between two slices of meat. Blend egg and milk with a fork. Mix cracker crumbs and celery salt. Dip sandwiches into egg, then in crumbs. Brown on both sides in frying pan or under broiler. Serve on toast for a snack or supper. Serves 6.

Baked Pork Loaf

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 tin canned pork | 2 T. prepared mustard |
| ½ c. blue cheese | |

Place complete loaf of canned pork on baking sheet; heat in 375° F. oven 10 minutes. Cream together cheese and mustard. Spread over top and sides of meat. Return to oven until cheese bubbles and browns. Serve hot.

Apple Pork Loaf

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 tin canned pork | ½ c. apple juice |
| 1 apple | |

Pare and slice apple into four. Remove pork from tin and cut in eight slices. Place a slice of apple between 2 slices meat. Place in baking dish, pouring apple juice over top. Bake at 350° F. for 30 minutes, basting frequently. Garnish with parsley to serve. Serves 4.

Pork Loaf Creole

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| ½ tin canned pork | 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce |
| 3 oz. noodles | 1 T. chili sauce |
| 1 tsp. onion | ½ c. tomato sauce |
| 1 tsp. chives | |
| 6 green olives | |

Heat canned pork loaf in oven until hot throughout. Cook noodles (about ½ of usual package) and drain well. Place noodles around pork loaf on serving platter. Make a sauce of remaining ingredients and pour over meat while still hot.

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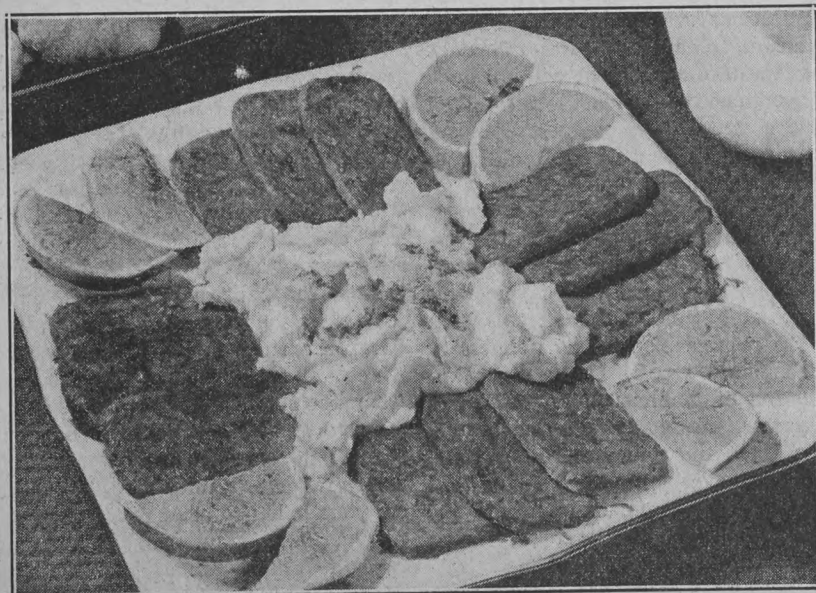
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Fall Beauty Check-up

Some answers to seasonal beauty complaints for the girl who strives to look attractive

by LORETTA MILLER

THE turn of each season seems to bring its own beauty problems. Summertime with the drying effects on the skin through burning, and wintertime with its drying effects encouraged by biting winds. Although the effect may seem to be the same, the remedial course varies with the seasons as well as the individual. This applies to facial skin as well as the hair and scalp. Overweight caused by too little activity during the winter months may come from too much indulgence in sweets as well as too much leisure during the hot summer months.

Question: I thought I was lucky this summer when I acquired a beautiful tan over my legs, shoulders, arms and face. But now that I'm thinking of going out after a job, and feel that I should wear dark, business-like dresses. My tan looks out of place and gives me a "country girl" appearance. Is there any way I can make my skin whiter, or really bleach out the tan, especially on my face and arms? Mim.

Answer: City girls spend many hours in an effort to get a good tan. They loll on beaches, in yards and even sit on rooftops in order to get the full benefit of the sun. A coppery, or brownish complexion is admired above all others during the summer. Makeup is played up to the tan. If the tanned complexion is on the rosy side of the color chart, rouge with a bluish tint is used. If the complexion is on the orangey side, then, of course, rouge must be on the yellowish or orangey side. I doubt that it will be wise to use powder or cheek rouge. Rather emphasize the lips and eyes, and let the coppery or bronze tone of your lovely complexion look its natural best. If you feel too drab in dark clothes, wear strands of bright beads or a light scarf or collar.

Question: What can I do about a complexion that is as brown as a berry and all dried up? I must admit I don't mind the actual skin tone, but I do most strenuously object to the dried-up appearance.

Answer: Dryness of the skin, in your case, has been brought on by overexposure to the burning, or drying, rays of the sun. In order to correct this dry condition it is necessary to replenish the oils of the skin. Daily applications of a good lubricating oil or cream, followed by careful massage over the face and throat will do much to overcome the dryness. If you do not have a good facial cream or oil, ask your druggist or beauty operator, or try a good grade of lanoline.

Lanoline is not perfumed, however, and you may object to its odor. Nevertheless it is a very superior lubricant. (Lanoline comes from the layer of fat immediately under the sheep's skin and is responsible for the richness of the animal's wool.) Use a light application of lanoline. Then using the fingertips, massage upward and outward from the throat to the hairline. Circle the eyes gently. Let a very thin film of lanoline remain on overnight. This should solve your dry skin problem.

Question: I spent part of the summer on the beach and, of course, not



Yvonne De Carlo, movie star, uses makeup sparingly for natural effect.

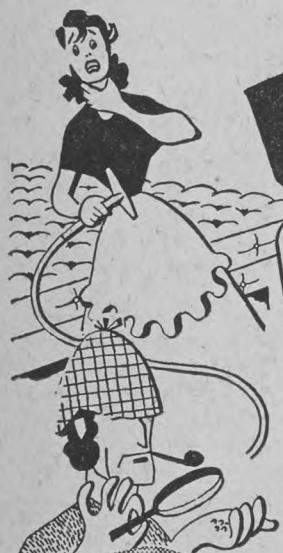
only tanned my skin, which I like, but dried up my hair so that it looks like straw. My hair is a medium brown color, but the sun made it very streaked and lighter in spots. Is there a dye I could use that would darken the light streaks? Also do you know of anything that will soften the texture of my hair so that it is more silky and less straw-like?

Answer: By all means let nature take care of the light streaks. Just as soon as it gets cooler and you wear a hat, the light streaks will darken quickly. However, if you wish to darken them now, you may use any of the brownish rinses which your beauty shop operator or druggist will be glad to suggest. Such rinses may be brushed over the light streaks after a shampoo. (These wash out with the next shampoo and are not to be confused with hair dye.)

Brush the darkener over the light streaks only. Do not attempt to change the color of all of your hair. This will correct the sun-bleached effect. To soften the texture of your hair apply the hair brush, plus scalp massage and an oil or cream. A mixture of three parts olive oil to one part castor oil blended together and applied sparingly to the scalp and over the dry, split hair ends will help overcome the effects of overexposure to the sun.

First brush your hair well. Then part it at intervals of an inch or so and make a very sparing application of the oil. When you have covered the entire scalp with the oils, use the cushions of your fingers and massage your scalp thoroughly. Then ever so sparingly apply the oils to the split hair ends. Wrap a towel or cloth turban fashion around your head and let the oils remain on for three-quarters of an hour. If you wish to hasten the penetration process, wring out a heavy towel in hot water and wrap it around your head. Repeat this three or four times. A thorough shampoo should follow and it is necessary to get all the oils from hair and scalp. Repeat the oily applications every two weeks until the silky texture of your hair has been restored.

Question: How can I lose the weight I have gained just this summer? I have put on over 15 pounds during my school vacation and hate



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to think of seeing my old classmates this fall. Is it possible to lose this amount of weight in a few weeks? Annette.

Answer: I'm afraid you won't be able to lose all of your newly gained weight before school starts this fall, but you can at least be on the road to a new figure by the time you see your classmates. Concentrate on losing weight. You can accomplish much in the next two weeks. Your newly acquired weight is probably due to too much ice cream and too many liquids plus too much lolling during vacation time. This type of weight is more easily lost than that which creeps up slowly over a long period. Avoid overeating. Cut down on sweets and starches. Eat liberally of fresh vegetables, salads and fruits. Take exercise. A brisk walk each day will help. Swimming is a grand form of weight reduction because it exercises almost every portion of the body. Watch liquid intake and limit it to not more than three full glasses of water daily. This in addition to all other liquids.

Getting back into school or business togs can bring added loveliness to the girl who has spent her summer wisely. A minimum amount of healthful exercise and leisure, and enough sunning to give the complexion a healthy glow, add up to fall beauty. Try to play up to your summertime good looks. Use makeup that will emphasize the whiteness of your teeth and the clearness of your eyes. These are two features that appear at their best when the skin is tanned.

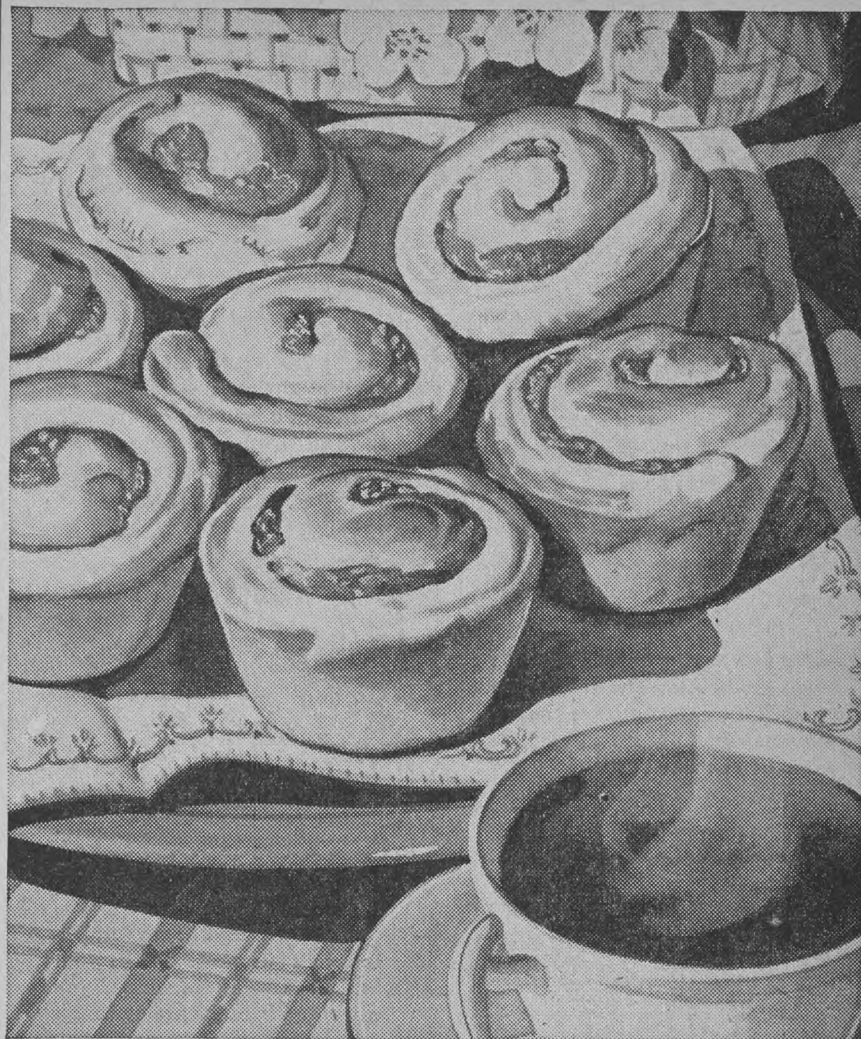
Countrywoman

Continued from page 79

published, there were manifestations of good will and encouragement. The Gimli Women's Institutes celebrated the news by holding a party in her honor. The Ladies' Aid of the Unitarian Church, of which she had been an active worker, entertained her and presented Kristine with a new electric vacuum cleaner. One of her friends had heard her once remark: "If I ever make any money out of my writing the first thing I am going to buy is a vacuum cleaner. It saves so much time and work."

THE actual publishing of the book and its attendant publicity brought Mrs. Kristofferson letters from many relatives, friends and strangers, in all parts of Canada, the United States and from Iceland. Some enclosed press clippings of reviews of her novel. A professor from Saskatchewan University wrote: "Congratulations for giving the Canadian public such an excellent book." From Wingham, Ontario, a woman in hospital recovering from an operation because of a cancerous condition wrote to express her thanks "for a story that made me forget my own worries for a while, because I was so anxious to find how things turned out for Tanya and Joe." A copy of "Tanya" was awarded to contributors to CBC evening quiz programs—for three successive weeks on "Court of Opinion," and once on "Now I Ask You."

It has brought strangers to her door. One morning when things seemed to combine to get household tasks off to a late start, a reporter and a press photographer, unannounced, arrived to get a photograph of Mrs. Kristofferson in a home setting for a



Flavory orange-filled rolls

So easy to make with
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New Dry Yeast!

● Fragrant and flavor-rich . . . these Orange-filled Rolls are just a sample of the wonderful things you can bake to perfection with the new Fleischmann's Fast Rising Dry Yeast.

No more poor results from yeast that loses strength because it's perishable! This new fast acting yeast needs no refrigeration—keeps full-strength right in your pantry.

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ORANGE-FILLED ROLLS

Makes 2 Dozen

Measure into large bowl

1/2 cup lukewarm water

1 teaspoon granulated sugar

and stir until sugar is dissolved.

Sprinkle with contents of

1 envelope Fleischmann's

Fast Rising Dry Yeast

Let stand 10 minutes, THEN stir well;

In the meantime, scald

3/4 cup milk

Remove from heat and stir in

1/4 cup granulated sugar

2-1/4 teaspoons salt

4-1/2 tablespoons shortening

Cool to lukewarm and add to yeast mixture; stir in

1/4 cup lukewarm water

Stir in

2-1/4 cups once-sifted bread flour

and beat until smooth; work in

2-1/4 cups more once-sifted bread flour

Turn out on lightly-floured board and knead dough lightly until smooth and elastic. Place in greased bowl, brush top with melted butter or shortening. Cover and set dough in warm place, free from draught. Let rise until doubled in bulk. While dough is rising, prepare

ORANGE FILLING

Combine in a saucepan

2-1/2 tablespoons corn starch

1/2 cup granulated sugar

Gradually blend in

1/3 cup cold water

1/3 cup orange juice

1-1/2 tablespoons lemon juice and add

1 tablespoon grated orange rind

1 teaspoon grated lemon rind

Bring to the boil, stirring constantly; boil gently, stirring constantly, until smoothly thickened; cool.

Punch down dough; form into a smooth ball. Roll into an oblong 1/4-inch thick and 26 inches long; loosen dough from board. Spread with cooled orange filling.

Beginning at a long edge, roll up loosely, like a jelly roll. Cut into 1-inch slices. Place in greased muffin pans. Grease tops. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk. Bake in moderate oven, 350°, about 25 min. Serve hot, with butter or margarine.



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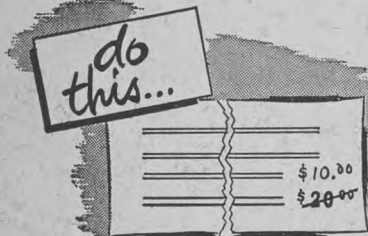


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THE SINGER MFG. CO.

national magazine, which was featuring an article on Gimli. She told me:

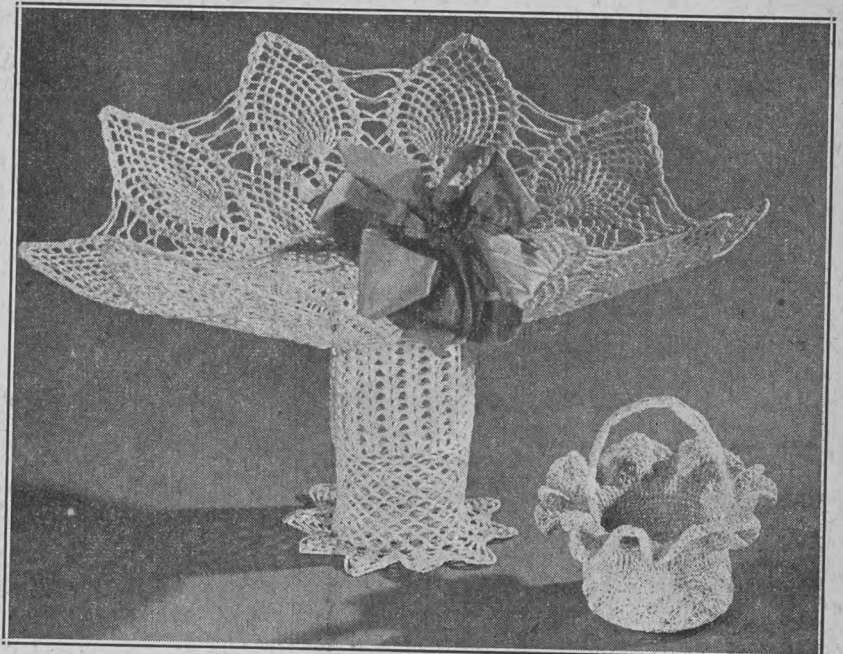
"The dining room table was heaped with clothes, waiting to be sorted for mending and ironing. I felt that I wasn't presentable. I glanced quickly around the room. The boys were engaged in their favorite game 'three little pigs,' and had a clutter of articles in three separate corners. Where, I wondered, could a photograph possibly be taken in my house that morning! But he got his picture."

Of "Tanya" a reviewer for the Toronto Telegram wrote: "At every point it touches on the very core of Canadian living." In The Globe and Mail, Toronto Arthur W. Deacon, Literary Editor said: "The author does

not preach; she demonstrates. Characters and scenes are so thoroughly Canadian; and the precise balancing of moods and motives show good craftsmanship . . . Tanya will please as a popular novel with the proved ingredients."

Kristine Benson early showed that she was a natural story-teller. The fact that she still finds writing "fun" is a sign of vitality. She still humbly thinks that she has much to learn about "how a book should be written." We hope that she will be reminded of what James M. Barrie said of Tess by Thomas Hardy: "It was right because it was Hardy's natural output. Blessed is the novelist, who has no idea of how he does it."

Crocheted Flower Basket

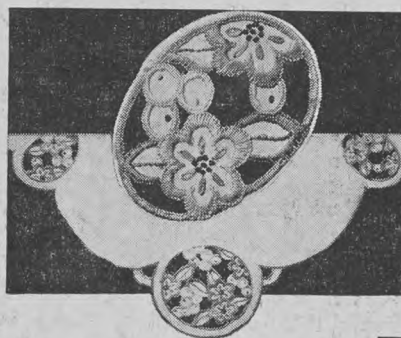


No. C-367

One of the really popular items with women who crochet is a flower basket. They're fresh as daisies and a pretty complement to a bouquet of flowers. The baskets are starched with

sugar (instructions are included) and a glass tumbler (large one) is inserted. This pattern also includes the small bonbon dish which does not require a glass liner. Pattern is C-367, price 25 cents.

Floral Motif Cutwork Tablecloth



No. 711

This attractive cutwork design is stamped on first-quality white embroidery linen. It can be worked in all white, all one color or in natural flower shades. (Please state color preference in ordering.) The edges are finished with buttonhole stitch. Instructions for placing colors, working, etc., are included. The 36 inch cloth is Design No. 711, price \$2.75. Threads 40 cents extra.

Dress Cardigan

No. K-122

This is a Six-two rib—unusually wide and unusually interesting. There is a K2, P2 ribbed band at the waistline, a colored border up front and a stand-up K2, P2 ribbed collar. Cuffs, also, are two-and-two rib and are in the darker shade. Colored felts in red, green or blue and tracing pattern for the embroidery motif are also available. The pattern is No. K-122 and includes sizes 10 to 16, price 25 cents. Felts and tracing pattern are 75 cents extra.



Send orders to The Country Guide Needlework Dept., 290 Vaughan, Winnipeg.

Separates for Fall

No. 3940—A tailored but feminine blouse to make of wool jersey or a silk crepe. The tie at the neck is in one with the raglan sleeves; the cuffs tie to match. Second version shows short sleeves and a pussy-cat bow under the chin. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 14 requires $2\frac{3}{4}$ yards 35-inch or $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards 54-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 3769—This casual skirt requires only four pieces to make; features a deep front pleat, front tucks and a slightly flared back. Width at lower edge 85 inches. Sizes 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32-inch waist (12 to 20 years). Size 28-inch waist (16 years) requires $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards 54-inch material. Price 25 cents.

No. 3680—An overblouse to wear with slim skirts has a stand-up collar, front buttons and a self belt. Second version shows sweetheart neckline, long sleeves and a smooth-fitting peplum; the third is a tuck-in blouse with a collar fitted onto the sweetheart neck and cuffs on three-quarter sleeves. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years, 40 and 42-inch bust. Size 18 requires 2 yards 39-inch fabric. Price 35 cents.

No. 3330—This very slim skirt has two small tucks at each side of the front and a back pleat for walking ease. Zips at center back. Other versions show pockets or pocket flaps on the hips and a wide belt. Sizes 24, 26, 28, 30, 32-inch waist (12 to 20 years). Size 30-inch waist requires $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards 54-inch material. Price 25 cents.

No. 3660—This yoked blouse may be feminine with lace frills or tailored with a tucked yoke. Sleeves may be short, three quarter or long. The collar is small with a slight roll and the buttons extend the length of the yoke. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires $1\frac{3}{4}$ yards 35-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 3977—A flattering ten-gore skirt that swirls out to a width of 110 inches. The snug-fitting waist band may be narrow or may be cut high in the front, tapered at the back. Sizes 24, 26, 28 and 30-inch waist (12 to 18 years). Size 26-inch waist requires 3 yards 39-inch or $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards 54-inch material. Price 35 cents.



Simplicity Patterns



No. 3816—A combination skirt and jacket blouse that can be worn in or out. Skirt has unpressed pleats front and back and large buttoned-up pockets. Skirt width 88 inches. Blouse has unmounted sleeves with tiny cuffs and a flat collar. Sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 16 requires for blouse $1\frac{3}{4}$ yards 39-inch material; skirt 3 yards 35-inch or $2\frac{1}{4}$ yards 54-inch. Price 35 cents.

No. 3771—The high collar, tucked front and push-up three-quarter sleeves make this blouse a favorite for wool jersey in a light, bright or dark shade. Sizes 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 years. Size 14 requires $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards 35-inch material; $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards 54-inch jersey. Price 35 cents.

No. 3495—This most flattering straight-style skirt has tucks at the waist front and hip pockets. Zips down centre back. Put a bright pin on the raised waistband for extra color. Sizes 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32-inch waist (12 to 20 years). Size 26 requires $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards 54-inch material. Price 25 cents.

No. 3955—There are three versions to this teen-age blouse. View shown features puff sleeves, ruffles and a pointed collar. There is also a striped plain-front blouse with three-quarter diagonal-line sleeves and white pointed collar and cuffs, and a scoop-neck blouse with plain front and three-quarter puffed sleeves; the neck and sleeves are piped with black velvet ribbon. Blouse buttons down the back. Sizes 10, 12, 14 and 16 years. Size 12 requires $2\frac{1}{4}$ yards 35-inch material. Price 35 cents.

No. 3881—This half-circle skirt is simple to make and fun to wear. Make it of a quilted material for school or work; a taffeta for best. Sizes 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32-inch waist (12 to 20 years). Size 24 requires $2\frac{3}{4}$ yards 35-inch material or $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards 54-inch. Price 35 cents.

Note price to be included with order. Write name and address clearly. State size and number for each pattern ordered. Patterns may be ordered from The Country Guide Pattern Service, Winnipeg, Manitoba, or order direct from your local dealer.

Miss...



or Mrs.?

(This Tampax message applies to both)

The doctor who invented this *internally worn* Tampax did not have in mind married or single women, particularly. On the contrary, he designed this product for all women who are normal and fully grown and are looking for a more modern solution to the old problem of monthly sanitary protection.

Has anyone ever told you that you cannot feel the Tampax while wearing it? Or that you do not remove it during a shower or tub bath? Your hands need not touch the Tampax while inserting it—so dainty are the patented applicators that contain the absorbent cotton!

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The Stewarts

Continued from page 13

matter content, and chart both these results in the form of a graph. At the end of each year, I am able to average the results of these tests and secure a picture of these five essential minerals in each field. I can then compare these results with other charts which are available to show the amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash required for a normal yield of each crop. This is the first and simplest step.

"Along with the soil test, we carefully observe each field for anything that would be abnormal in a healthy crop. In addition, we know that the soil test can tell us the total amount of each plant food in the soil, but that it does not tell us the amounts available to the plants. To give me this information, I use a cell-tissue test. For this, one takes pieces of the leaves or stems of the plant, places them on a blotter immediately, and then puts drops of chemicals on these pieces. Like the soil test, it is quite simple, but in the former it is the taking of the sample and the thorough mixing of it, which is very important; with the cell-tissue test, it is reading or interpreting the result that is difficult and requires some experience. The chemicals give reactions which result in colors. These colors are compared with the colors on a chart showing the amounts of available nitrogen, phosphorus and potash which different colors represent. The test, therefore, is useful to the extent that it is interpreted correctly.

"Having made these tests and studied them carefully, we are then in a position the following year to fertilize each field according to its requirements. These vary somewhat with the crop. One crop may need a little extra potash, others a little more or less phosphorus, or nitrogen. The chart of soil tests for each field, and our experience with the cell-tissue test, tell us what to do. This is where the eight different fertilizers we use come in, because we have a very definite place for each one of them. Also, we try to give a little extra attention to any parts of any field which are not uniform with the remainder; and find that this pays off in uniform yields, and therefore in larger yields."

I LEARNED, however, that the Stewarts are not interested in the highest possible yields. They want crops that stand up until harvested; and in Ontario, during the growing season, it frequently rains an inch or better in 10 or 15 minutes. In their seed crops, therefore, the Stewarts want crops which will stool well, develop strong root systems and make stronger plants to withstand the storms. By using a somewhat lower rate of seeding (wheat, 1½ bushels by weight, barley, 1 to 1¼ bushels by weight, and oats, 1¼ to 1½ bushels by weight), they have had standing crops during the last few years, with one exception, but know that they have sacrificed something in yield to get them. During four of the past five years, wheat yields have been around 50 bushels per acre (all-time top, 62 bushels). Oat yields from 72 to 84 bushels (top, 102), and barley, from 50 to 56 bushels (top, 67).

I wondered about "trace" minerals, but John was ready for me. For two

years, 1950 and 1951, he had the company which supplies their fertilizers add six different trace minerals separately, with a seventh lot in which a double dose of manganese was added. The other five trace minerals were boron, lead, copper, zinc and sulphur. The result was, however, that even after very close and thorough checking of the various plots, a single field of alfalfa was the only one to show a trace mineral deficiency—of boron. A further point here is related to the fairly general use of limestone in Ontario. John occasionally does some soil testing for the neighbors, and in some cases he recommends, or uses on his own farm, a dolomitic limestone, which, in addition to calcium, contains some magnesium that would be useful in a soil deficient in this trace mineral.

BY this time, dozens of questions were running through my mind, but time was running short, so I picked the one which was uppermost. What about the organic content of good productive soils? What did John think about it and, more important, what was he doing about it? The subject is important enough for him to answer in his own words:

"Our organic matter program is fairly complicated. We operate on the principle that when raw land is first broken, its organic matter content is relatively high, but that, under continuous cultivation, it decreases to a relatively stable, but also relatively low level, which is accompanied by relatively low yields. Contrary to the belief of some, we do not believe that sustained high yields require both the organic level and the fertility level of the soil to be brought up together. We think that if we hold the level of organic matter where it is, or raise it very slowly, and keep the fertility level high, we will be doing a better job. To increase the organic matter at even a moderate rate would not only be very costly, but it would necessitate putting a high percentage of our land in sod. This we do not want to do, although we recognize that the only good way to increase the organic matter content of soils is through a grass sod, with perhaps a small amount of legumes in it.

"We plow at least once during each rotation, from four to eight inches deep, depending on the crop to follow, and the condition of the soil. We believe plowing helps to keep the soil well aerated. Organic matter added to soil also promotes aeration, and it likewise helps to prevent the compaction of heavier soil, following the heavy rains we get. An inch or more, of water falling in a very short time tends to seal up the surface, by creating a crust which prevents the free movement of air up and down.

"We never, if we can avoid it, turn under a sod, or any other form of organic matter, without first mixing it with the soil. We do this by disking the top growth of red clover or alfalfa before plowing, or where straw is

plowed under, disking once or twice with a sharp disk, well-weighted down. This spreads the raw organic matter throughout the soil, so that, after plowing, the bacteria have a better chance of working on it to the benefit of the land. If organic matter is turned under without first mixing it, moisture turns it into a sodden mass which not only stops aeration and capillary action in the soil, but also prevents the free exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide, which leads to serious complications.

"We really do turn under quite a bit of organic material, in one way or another. There is the sod from alfalfa and red clover, as well as the stubble and weeds incorporated during the after-harvest cultivation that we practice on every field not seeded down. We make use of all our straw, and when we have excess straw from threshing, we put it into stacks, level these down, rot them into compost heaps, and add the material to the soil as needed. Finally, we usually have sufficient barnyard manure to thoroughly coat between 32 and 36 acres yearly.

"Good farmers sometimes speak of soil in good, tilth as having 'life' in it. What we are likely to forget is that this is literally true. Very large numbers of tiny living organisms, most of them microscopic in size, can be found in even a very small sample of good soil. The numbers living in an acre of plow slice have been estimated to weigh several tons. Earthworms alone may be present to the extent of two or three millions per acre. Practically all of these forms of life feed on decaying organic matter, and in so doing reduce it to humus which the plants can use as food.

"Feeding these organisms within the soil by incorporating all of the organic material we can economically put into it is, therefore, an important part of good soil management. Barnyard manure, green manures, composts, stubble and other refuse, are all parts of this essential food. Nitrogen is a basic food for soil bacteria, which eat the decaying organic matter to get nitrogen. We must be careful to see that our soil contains, in one form or another, enough nitrogen to feed the growing crops, while the bacteria are releasing the plant food from the decaying organic matter. We consider it very important, too, not to waste the organic matter by too-fast or too-frequent cultivation after we have put it into the soil. This burns it up, and by so doing militates against maximum yields which are the result of the proper balance mentioned earlier."

Well, by then it was time to go, John to the annual family picnic at Springbank Park near London, which claims the loyalty of the Stewarts from near and far; and I to make ready for the long but very pleasant drive back to Winnipeg, through southwestern Ontario, up the Michigan Peninsula and across the northern portions of Wisconsin and Minnesota. As I drove hurriedly back to London, thinking of the great variety of problems involved in successful farm living, and of the challenge which modern successful farming offers to intelligence and enterprise, I was reminded again of that classic remark made by Mortimer Snerd when Bergen asked him how he could be so stupid. "Well," said Mortimer, "taint easy!"



Canada's Seed Potato Industry

Canada exports high quality certified seed potatoes regularly in large quantities

DURING the four years ended 1951, Canada's production of certified seed potatoes, which is centered in the Maritime provinces and in British Columbia, has varied from 10.1 to 18.8 million bushels; and our exports have varied from 1.8 to 8.2 million bushels. Our largest export market is in the United States which, during the same period, has taken from one million to 7.2 million bushels per year. By far the most important variety produced in Canada and exported has been the Katahdin, followed in earlier years by Green Mountain and Irish Cobbler, but more recently by Sebago.

Canada's seed potato industry is the subject of an extensive market report published in the August 2 issue of "Foreign Trade" of the Canada Department of Trade and Commerce. Canadian potatoes, the report says, have been exported to the United States since before 1914, to Bermuda since 1915, to Venezuela since 1935, and since 1936 Uruguay and Argentina have depended upon Canada almost exclusively for supplies of seed. Other countries to which we have exported in substantial quantities, in one or more of the last four years, are Israel, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil and Chile.

In addition to the varieties mentioned earlier, substantial quantities of Bliss Triumph, Netted Gem, Pontiac, and White Rose are grown, while the two new high-quality and blight-resistant varieties developed by the Canada Department of Agriculture in recent years, Canso and Keswick, are only beginning to assume importance in the trade.

While Canada has been exporting seed potatoes since before World War I, it was not until the duty was reduced and a quota established, in 1936, that our seed potato exports have developed to really substantial proportions. Since then, the quota rate of duty has been reduced to 37½ cents per 100 lbs., and the quota increased to 2.5 million bushels. As a result, Canadian seed potatoes not only enter eastern seaboard states from Maine to Florida and are sent inland as far as Kentucky and Alabama and Tennes-

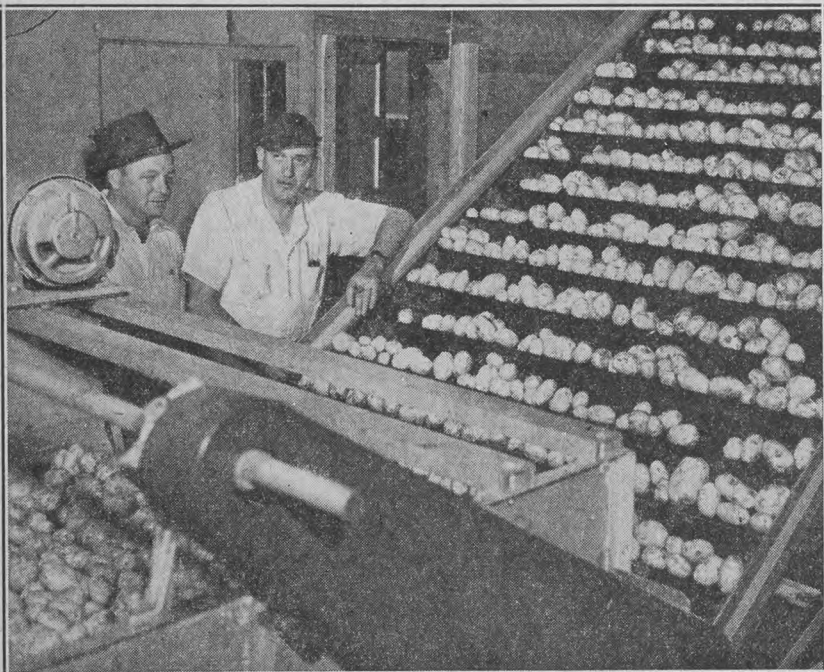
see, but substantial shipments are made through the north central states and on the west coast. Because Irish potatoes are grown in every state of the U.S., and because planting extends over wide seasons beginning in September in southern Texas and winding up in New Jersey and Virginia from February to April, seed is sometimes ordered six or eight months before planting begins.

THE report credits the steady and continued demand for Canadian certified seed potatoes to the high standards of quality maintained by the Canada Department of Agriculture. Like our standards for seed grain and other seeds, low tolerances for diseases and pests, and our standards of purity of variety, are not only strict but rigorously enforced. Inspectors make two field inspections, a third at harvest time, and a fourth at the time of shipment.

Only two sizes of seed potatoes are specified in the regulations, A (3 to 12 oz.) and B (1½ to 3 oz.). Demand is mostly for the A size, though certain markets where whole tubers are planted, such as in central Tennessee, call for the B size. The regulations also permit inspection for a specific size range which may be called for in a contract.

All certified potato seed must be packed in new containers to which official tags are attached. These show variety, size, date of issue and certificate number of the crop. Through this certificate number, the name and address of the grower and the specific crop inspected can be traced at any time, should there be any complaint. In addition to the countries already mentioned to which Canada exports her seed potatoes, are a number of others whose purchases are small and sometimes irregular. Among these are Jamaica, Peru, Panama, The Netherlands, Antilles, The Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, and the Windward and Leeward Islands.

The continuing maintenance of high quality in Canadian seed potatoes, and confidence in the integrity of the seed exporter, will be a constant necessity.



Commercial potatoes being elevated after washing and grading. [Wheeler photo]

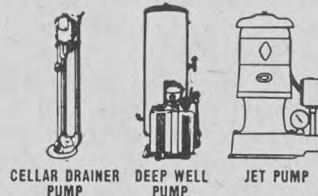
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Oil in the Mountain Passes

The militant demands of progress insist that the seemingly impossible task of driving a pipeline through the Rockies be undertaken

by ROBERT FRANCIS

PIPELINE construction experts from across the world, from Texas and Sumatra and Saudi Arabia, flew to western Canada to build the Trans-Mountain Oil Pipe Line from Edmonton to the west coast.

These pipeline builders work for Canadian Bechtel Limited, a firm which sends its men anywhere to handle major pipe construction jobs. They work at high speed, putting down the 24-inch Trans-Mountain pipe at perhaps a mile a day, a vital factor in mountain country such as

more than 400 miles and down to Hope, on the Fraser River and the final easy 80 miles to tidewater.

The actual route is west from Edmonton to Jasper and over the continental divide at 3,720 feet altitude in Yellowhead Pass, then along the C.N.R. tracks and North Thompson River to Kamloops. From there the pipeline rises to cross a 4,000-foot plateau to Merritt, follows the C.P.R. through the Coquihalla Canyon at

never less than a minimum radius of 40 pipe diameters. This was to allow the cleaning scraper, forced along by compressed air, to pass through the pipe. In winter, taking into account the high wax content of some Alberta oils, the cleaner will have to be moved through about once a week to prevent wax congealing on the inside of the pipe. Cleaner traps are installed every 125 miles to allow the scraper to be inserted and removed.

Crossing the 21 navigable rivers between Edmonton and the coast has added construction problems, principally of weighting the pipe so that it will sit firmly in its trench through the river bed and avoid any tendency to buoyancy.

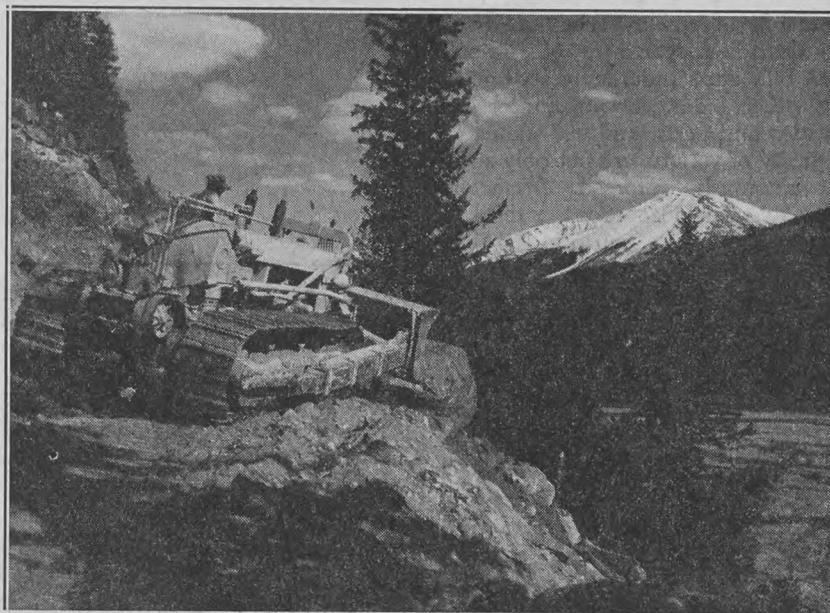
The largest river-crossing job will be at Port Mann, near Vancouver, where 2,200 feet of pipe, in 40-foot, one-ton lengths, will have to be welded before it is lowered into the river. When the section is complete, one end will be plugged and drawn across the river by barge, then lowered into a 12-foot trench on the river bottom.

But even this considerable engineering feat, in which the pipe must be set in place before the trench can become silted up, and without holding up river traffic unduly, is regarded calmly by the world-travelled experts of Canadian Bechtel.

Landowners along the Trans-Mountain route, more than 2,700 of them, have been among the first to benefit directly from the start of construction work. Teams of men representing the company have systematically visited each region where the line runs, and made the standard offer of 50 cents a rod in the ranch country of the interior and \$1.00 a rod in the farming Fraser Valley, where the line passes through private property.

Since this is found money, protests have been infrequent, particularly since once the pipe is buried and the trench filled in, crops are sown again on top and there is little outward evidence the pipeliners have passed by.

To complete the job for the time being and in order to get oil flowing



Heavy machinery roars through the Rockies clearing a path across valleys, around peaks, and over rivers to let the giant pipeline pass . . .

the Rockies where they can work only six months of the year.

This 720-mile project, which will cost \$82,000,000 by the time it is finished in the fall of 1953, will take oil from the rich Leduc and Redwater fields of Alberta to refineries and deep sea tankers at Vancouver. The actual tank farm which will be the line's terminus will be in Burnaby, a growing industrial suburb between Vancouver and New Westminster.

Completion of the Trans-Mountain line will be the final shot in the arm for the industrial boom which has been snowballing in B.C. since the end of the war. It will mean more oil products refined locally, fuel for industries, and increased employment in refineries and on the waterfront where tankers dock.

Ranchers and farmers in the Alberta foothills and the Rockies and across central B.C. have marvelled at the rapidity with which the job has gone ahead since the surveying of the route began a year ago. The apparently stupendous engineering and construction problems have seemed to them, and to other visitors to the line's construction camps, to be virtually insuperable.

Yet the veteran pipeline engineers who are bossing the job, as well as the welders and tractor-drivers and other specialists working on the project, take it easily in their stride. These veterans of pipelining work put it like this: "No job is tough, if you have the men, the equipment, the organization and the experience." It is those four factors which helped put the survey 200 miles across the foothills west of Edmonton, through the tortuous canyons of the Rockies for

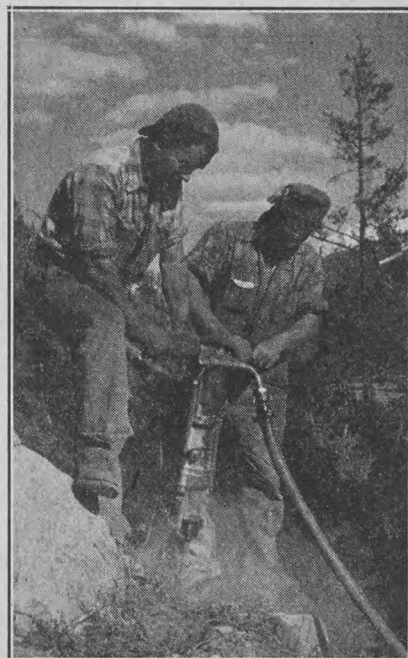
about 3,660 feet and moves down to Hope and through the Fraser Valley to the coast.

The same four factors were operating as clearing began and the pipe-laying got under way this spring. Now the work moves steadily ahead, with the best knowledge and experience and equipment and crews pushing to get as many miles as possible laid before snow flies.

But for all the high pressure to get the job done, not a length of pipe goes into the ground until every weld has been inspected by X-ray, cleaned and wrapped. A self-propelled cleaner moves along the pipe, rusty from exposure, automatically brushing off rust, polishing and applying a primary coat. Next, enamel is brushed on at 450 degrees and fibre glass and asbestos felt wrapped on. In areas where the pipe will lie in rock cut, extra asbestos felt goes on the outside. The considerable temperature changes in the mountains, from great heat in summer to far below zero in winter, make it necessary to bury the pipe from 24 to 36 inches below the surface.

IN some of the narrow valleys of the Rockies, the problem for engineers was to find a suitable line for the route of even the 60 feet width needed for the right-of-way. In the restricted space of some valleys, rivers, railroads and right-of-ways for future roads had already taken most of the best usable lines.

Engineers managed, however, though in some parts as many as 50 curves to a mile were unavoidable. But the survey had to be laid out so that the curvature of the pipe was



. . . but on steep, stony slopes where no tractor could hang it is a job for men with air-pressure drills.

west with the least delay, Trans-Mountain will be ready for business when the pipeline itself, and 18 storage tanks with a capacity of 2,560,000 barrels, are completed. The latter will consist of eight 150,000-barrel tanks at Edmonton and eight at Burnaby, outside Vancouver, plus two 80,000-barrel tanks at Kamloops. Eventually, storage capacity will be increased to 5,120,000 barrels.

As construction gangs push ahead, two gangs working near Jasper and one around Kamloops, every man keeps an eye cocked on the weather. Coating, wrapping and welding can be done during the dry months from June to October. Exterior work on pumping stations will be limited to the same six months, though interior

work can be continued through the winter.

In spring and fall, when snow is going and before the fire hazard makes it too dangerous, clearing work is carried on. Clearing commenced in April this year, the same time that the first carloads of pipe were moved in.

Trans-Mountain Oil Pipe Line Company comprises six major oil companies and a score of independent firms which combined to finance construction of the line, turning the actual work over to Canadian Bechtel. Their enterprise may turn out to be the most important in a series of important industrial projects which have sprung up in many parts of British Columbia since the province emerged from the war.

Unky the Porcupine

Wild animal demands hospitality
by KERRY WOOD

EARLY in May a fist-sized little animal wandered out of the woodlands to waddle across the lawn of Miss Mina Cole's home at Red Deer. Miss Cole is a pioneer naturalist of the central Alberta city, so she was interested in the juvenile porcupine and offered the youngster a piece of bread. Without further ado, the animated pin-cushion accepted the gift and started munching. Meanwhile, Miss Cole quickly scouted through the nearby forest, trying to locate the mother animal. She had no success at this chore, so returned to her lawn in time to see the fat little bundle of spines finish the bread and waddle over to a pile of spruce branches heaped in a corner. He crawled under the branch screen and curled up.

During the late afternoon, the baby porcupine awakened and at once made a bee-line for Miss Cole, who was reading a book out on a lawn chair. The animal came to a halt immediately in front of her, uttering a grunting noise that sounded like:

"Unk! Unk! Unk!"

Miss Cole translated this as a request for more food, so she fetched a dish of bread and milk.

"Here you are, Unky!"

The hungry little orphan needed no second invitation, but greedily slurped every last morsel of food offered and grunted for a second helping.

"His smooth-skinned stomach was positively bulging when he finished," reported Miss Cole. "After making sure that I wasn't going to weaken and give him more, he crawled under my lawn chair for another snooze. He slept there for half an hour, then roused himself and grunted again. It occurred to me that he might be thirsty, so I brought a glass of water from the house and held it near Unky, and he promptly took a long drink."

Afterwards, Miss Cole gingerly touched the little animal, expecting to have her fingers perforated by the spear-armor. However, she discovered that the tiny porcupine quills were merely prickly at this early stage and not really sharp and dangerous weapons as yet. Stroking the animal was safe enough, unless she brought her hand against the natural slope of hair and quills. Unky made no protest about her touching him. Indeed, he seemed to enjoy the petting and sidled closer. The next thing Miss Cole knew, he climbed up her leg and settled himself on her lap for another snooze.



Miss Mina Cole, Red Deer, naturalist, and her pet porcupine.

During the next three weeks, Unky put in two appearances daily on Miss Cole's lawn and in that time increased in size to a ten-inch length and a three-pound weight. Sometimes he came to her house door, scratching and grunting for attention when he did not find her on the lawn. Bread and milk was his favorite fare, but he did not object to a slice of cake now and then and would willingly eat dry bread if nothing else was offered. He enjoyed lettuce and carrots, slices of apple, and frequently helped himself to a dandelion leaf—carefully chewing from the pointed end and devouring it all the way down to the juicy stem.

Many visitors came to have a look at Unky, and he permitted most of them to stroke him and offer him a titbit. By the end of May, his quills were half an inch long and Unky sometimes got excited when a dog barked or a child yelled near him, when he'd swish his quill-armed tail around quickly. Miss Cole had a few quills stuck into her coat sleeve a couple of times, but at no time did the little animal hurt his benefactress.

"However, he's growing very rapidly, and in another month it may be dangerous to have him climb onto my lap," Miss Cole reported.

The curator of the Calgary zoo was asked if he'd like to have Unky at the St. George's Island Zoological Garden, and quickly agreed. On June 1 a group of Calgary naturalists came to Red Deer for a nature outing, and Unky was placed in a wooden box and travelled in style on the back seat of the car all the way back to the foothill city. He was a model passenger, and is now a favorite of the young folk at the Calgary zoo.

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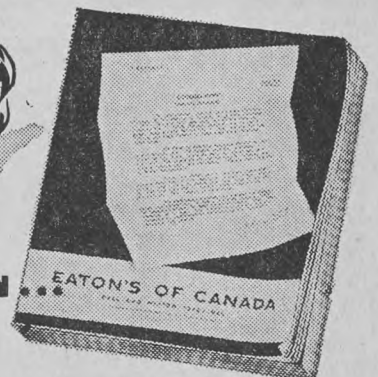
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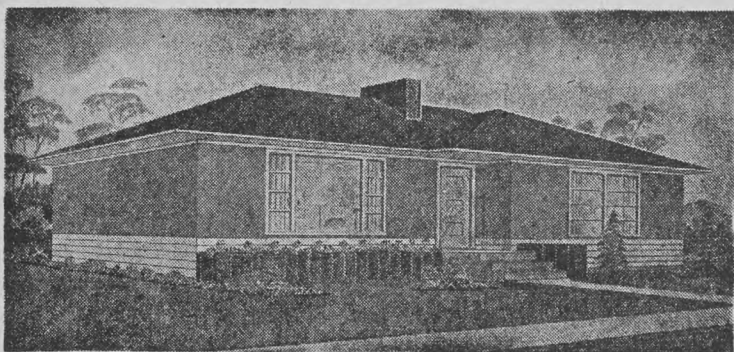
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Rust Control Research

Combined assault on wheat stem rust to be made at the University of Saskatchewan

THERE is hope that a new rust-resistant variety of bread wheat will be ready for release in 1954. This variety is presently called CT186, and will be the product of a joint project group of the Canada Department of Agriculture, which was set up to breed disease-resistant wheats for Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. The new variety will be grown in California during the coming winter for increase, and next year will be multiplied under contract. Tests have been conducted at 23 places across western Canada. Originally a selection from the cross (McMurachy-Exchange) x Redman³, a purified strain is under test now, which requires only final approval by the cereal chemists to certify its milling and baking quality.

Tests indicate that it is probably acceptable from a production point of view. Fairly resistant to leaf rust, its resistance to stem rust is believed adequate for normal Manitoba conditions,

ety, or of transferring factors for stem rust from other wheats and related grasses, to bread wheat. Object will be to prepare for the combatting of other rust races which may later appear. One, Race 189, now prevalent in Chile, is even more virulent than Race 15B.

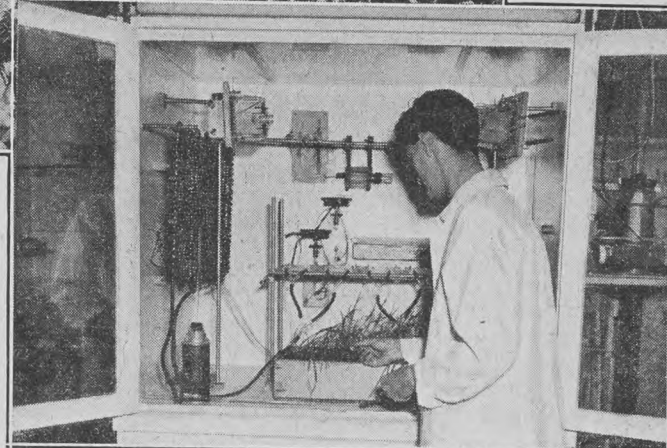
In this work, hundreds of varieties will be used, about 80 variety crosses made each year, and rust epidemic conditions created in greenhouses and on experimental plots. This project will be financed by an \$8,800 grant from the Canada Department of Agriculture.

In the Department of Botany of the University a different approach will be made to rust resistance. The fact that wheat stem rust must have a recognized host plant necessitates an intimate study of the physiology of both rust fungus and the host tissues, as well as their relationship to each other. The work will be complex and difficult, somewhat similar in fact to



Professors
Knott (left)
and Jenkins
cross-pollinate wheat at
Saskatoon.

Professor
Shaw of
Biology
examines
wheat
plants
in
"controlled
growth"
cabinet.



but is of the kind which tends to break down under continued high temperatures. The original selection is superior to standard varieties in yield, but the purified stock has been under further test this year. It is about equal to Redman in maturity and straw strength, but slightly taller.

Search for a rust-resistant wheat variety has been under way for 45 years, and will not end even with a reasonably rust-resistant new variety effective against Race 15B. At the University of Saskatchewan, two research projects have been announced which are being financed by research grants totalling \$20,400. Professors L. H. Shebeski and B. C. Jenkins of the Field Husbandry Department will supervise the project. Directed by Professor D. R. Knott, the new research will involve basic studies in the production of rust-resistant varieties. The department will study the number of factors involved in stem rust resistance, the factors now present in the varieties known to possess resistance, and the possibilities of combining types of factors into one vari-

ety, or of transferring factors for stem rust from other wheats and related grasses, to bread wheat. Object will be to prepare for the combatting of other rust races which may later appear. One, Race 189, now prevalent in Chile, is even more virulent than Race 15B.

For such studies, modern biochemical techniques are essential for the examination of both healthy and infected tissue produced under controlled conditions. Consequently, this project will be financed by an \$8,600 grant from the Canada Department of Agriculture, plus a \$3,000 grant from United Grain Growers Limited for the construction of a special laboratory cabinet, where the growing wheat plants can be subjected to controlled conditions.

The 200 or more races of stem rust so far isolated by the scientist will continue to provide plenty of work for the geneticist, the biologist and the chemist. Fortunately only a few of them offer immediate threat to crops.

The Country Boy and Girl



"RICE MOON" the Indians call this month, for during September they harvest their crop of wild rice. The Indian families set up camp on the shores of the shallow lakes and marshes where wild rice grows and prepare to gather the crop. Just think—their crop is ready and waiting for them, for wild rice seeds and fertilizes itself—the Indians have only to harvest the crop!

As wild rice grows only in water, the Indians must use canoes to gather their crop. As one Indian poles the canoe

through the water the other bends the rice stems over the side of the canoe and gently taps off the heads of rice into the bottom of the boat. When the canoe is full, they go ashore. Then the rice is heated over a fire to loosen the hulls. Next the rice is placed in an open hole in the ground and a man dances up and down on the rice to remove the hulls. To separate the hulls from the rice, the rice is scooped up in a birch-bark tray and tossed into the air and caught while the wind carries off the chaff. Around their camp fires at night the Indians rejoiced as they enjoyed the first wild rice of the season, for a good crop meant they would not be hungry during the winter months.

Today white men harvest wild rice with machines. They use a mechanical harvester for gathering the rice and power-driven machines for hulling and finishing the rice. However, during this month you may still see Indians on the marshes in their canoes, gathering rice by hand, for the finest grade of rice is obtained in that way.

Ann Sankey

School and Danny Deermouse

by Mary Grannan

A LITTLE deermouse sat on a fence rail and looked anxiously toward the road that wound itself up the hill from the valley. A robin, near by, noticed the worried look on the face of the little mouse, and chirped, "What's the matter, Danny, don't you feel well?"

The little mouse looked up at the friendly bird. "I feel fine, Mr. Robin, but I'm worried. Johnny is late. He always meets me here the very first thing every morning, and the clock in the church tower, down at the cross roads, has struck nine. I'm afraid that something has happened to Johnny."

The robin laughed. "Nothing has happened to Johnny," he said. "Didn't he tell you that he was going to school today?"

Danny shook his head, and then asked, "What's school, Mr. Robin?"

The robin pointed with his left wing, toward the village in the valley. "It's that red brick house down there with the white fence all around it, and with the flag flying on that tall post."

"But what would Johnny be doing in there?" asked Danny. "It's a nice day, and we always play together on nice days."

The robin flew to the fence rail, and told the worried little mouse all that he knew about school. "And Johnny is six, now," he added, "and so he's going to school to learn things."

"What sort of things?" asked Danny.

"I don't know," said the robin. "Everybody goes to school to learn things."

"Did you go?" asked Danny.

"With birds, it's different," said the robin, and spreading his wings, he flew away. Danny sat alone, wondering about this thing called "school." After giving the matter considerable thought, he said to himself, "I'm going to go to school. I want to learn things too. If I don't, Johnny will be much more clever than I am."

He jumped from the fence rail and ran helter-skelter down the road, and to the little red brick school house. The door was open wide, and the sun had cast a slanting ray through the door, and directly on Johnny's face. Danny with a flying leap, landed on his friend's shoulder. A little girl squealed.

Johnny laughed, as he said to the wide-eyed and amazed teacher, "It's Danny Deermouse, Miss Meadows. He's a friend of mine. I forgot to tell him that I wouldn't meet him on the hilltop this morning."

Miss Meadows smiled, as she watched Danny squeaking into Johnny's ear. "What is he saying to you, Johnny?" she asked.

"He says he wants to go to school too. He says he wants to learn things too. May he stay Miss Meadows?"

Miss Meadows nodded. "Yes," she said. "He may stay if he behaves himself."

Danny behaved himself for a little while, and then he whispered to Johnny, "Come on, let's leave this place. I'm not learning a thing."

"But I am," said Johnny.

"I must be stupid," said the little deermouse. "I feel very stupid."

"You go home, Danny," whispered Johnny. "I'll come up to the hilltop after school, to see you."

Danny nodded, and with a flying leap, he was out the window and on his way to the green fields, beyond. The children laughed merrily at his flight. Johnny frowned and said, "He doesn't understand about learning things in school, Miss Meadows."

"He doesn't understand about school," she said, "but he could teach us many things about the fields and woodland. We wouldn't be able to build a mouse's nest, any more easily than he could spell a word. You tell him that, when you see him, Johnny."

At three o'clock, Johnny made his way up to the hilltop and to the fence rail. He found a very sad little mouse waiting for him.

"I didn't know until today, Johnny," he sobbed, "that I was stupid. I thought I was clever, and I'm not."

"But you are clever," said Johnny. "You can do things I can't do, and I can do things you can't do. That's the way with the world. We're different, that's all."

"Yes," said Danny. "I knew that all the time, too. The robin told me that very thing this morning. I'm glad we're different. I wouldn't want to be a boy."

"And I wouldn't want to be a mouse," said Johnny.

"But we both want to have some fun, don't we?" laughed Danny.

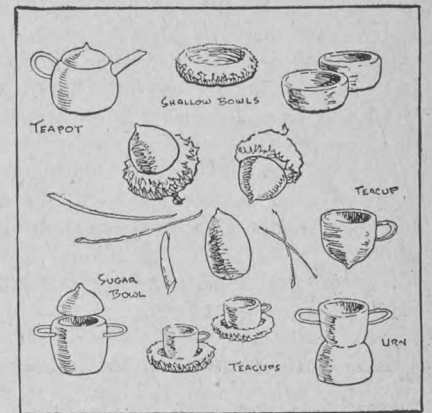
They were agreed on that.

Acorn Tea Set

OUT in the woods at this time of year, you can find acorns under the oak trees from which you can make all kinds of dishes. Gather up a good supply of large and small ones and set to work to make a tea set.

For a teapot use a large acorn shell that stands upright on its broad base.

A small twig bent and pressed into one side of the shell will make a handle and a short bit of twig pushed into one side of the shell will make a spout. A saucer is a small acorn shell, a bowl is a large acorn cap and the lower part of a small acorn makes a tiny cup with a small twig handle as you made for the teapot. Two acorn caps put together make a fine covered sugar bowl or an urn, as shown in the sketch. Now you have a fairy tea set.—A.T.



Sketch Pad Out-of-Doors

No. 8 of series—by CLARENCE TILLENUS

AN artist owes a great deal to his models, and I take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the best—though most of her posing was done unconsciously.

The sketches below are studies of "Gus," our cat. For eleven years she has shared my studio and provided endless inspiration for illustrations, paintings and drawings in which any of the cat family figured.

Though many people do not know it, all the great cats—the lion, the tiger, the leopard, the cougar—have a great deal in common with the familiar house cat. All the cats have the same lithe grace, the look of controlled strength and flowing power that sets them apart from all other animals. When watching a mountain lion in action it is amazing how like a huge house cat it appears. The African lion and the tiger have longer, heavier heads: the lion in particular with his deep-set, wonderful eyes has a look of indescribable majesty—but large or small, all the cats share this

look of great power under perfect control.

For this reason, a cat makes a fine model—one that will delight and exasperate you by turns. A cat is as independent and contrary as a herd of cows in an oat field; whatever you wish, she will do the opposite; but as inspiration for action studies, you could not ask for better.

Watch a couple of kittens at play—look at the marvellous twistings and doublings and sunfishing leaps—then take up your sketch pad and put some of these actions on paper. Watch your cat when she hears a mouse in some old papers or watch her stalk sparrows in the garden, and you will have a very good mental picture of a leopard stalking the wild goat, or a cougar about to spring on a blacktail deer.

So even though "Gus" despises porridge and has a regrettable preference for the most expensive variety of fresh liver, she has more than earned her keep and the right to be regarded as one of the family—something which she herself has never doubted.



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Freight Rates

WHAT one of the members of the Royal Commission on Transportation referred to as "the general increase in prices and wages, commonly called inflation," threatens Canada again in the field of rail transportation. There have been eight general freight rate increases in Canada since the beginning of World War I. As matters stand now, freight rate increases already granted the railways since the close of World War II, amount to 69.8 per cent. There are presently before the Board of Transport Commissioners, applications for increases of seven per cent now, and nine per cent later on, with a still further increase contingent on the outcome of wage negotiations with the non-operating unions. Premier Campbell of Manitoba has called attention to the fact that should the applications for seven and nine per cent be granted, freight rates then will have been raised to 97 per cent above the level of the rates in force in April, 1948.

It is worth noting that the last general increase prior to 1948 was in 1920, at the peak of World War I prices. Not until 1950 did the general wholesale price index, or that for manufactured products, reach a higher level. In 1946, when the railways made their first application for a general rate increase, these index figures were still more than 60 points below the 1920 level. It is true, of course, that around 55 to 60 per cent of the total operating costs of the railways are to be found in payrolls, so that the index numbers referred to, only partially reflect operating costs of the railways. Nevertheless, they are not without meaning to railway customers, and to the taxpayer concerned with postwar inflation.

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THE really vicious aspect of these postwar freight rate increases has been the application by the Board of Transport Commissioners, of the principle of horizontal, or across-the-board percentage increases. This is a practice which drew from the Royal Commission on Transportation a comment that by inference at least, accused the Board of neglect, or incompetence, or both. The Commission concluded that the Board had treated the applications before it, "purely from the revenue point of view and without considering the ability of different commodities to bear the increases." With reference to the Board's own statement that it did not have the necessary information to do otherwise, the Commission concluded that the remedy lies in the hands of the railways themselves, who should make thorough and comprehensive studies of traffic conditions and present proposals for consideration by the Board. They should be able to do this, thought the Commission, but if they do not, it ought to be the duty of the Board to see that they do.

The Board of Transport Commissioners is a very important body in a country as dependent on transportation as Canada. Nevertheless, it seems to have taken its responsibilities quite casually; and to have awakened to its more urgent postwar duties only gradually and with difficulty. Of the seven criticisms of the Board reported by the Turgeon Commission, the sixth had to do with the equalization of rates, which has been a part of Canada's national transportation policy for many years. Notwithstanding this policy, the Commission reported, "the Board has not, in the past 23 years, taken steps to bring about equalization between rates in the West and in the East."

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IN Canada, two transportation giants dominate the situation. One, the Canadian National Railways, is state owned; the other, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, is privately owned. Unlike the

C.N.R. (which by its own statement is "obliged in the public interest to operate without compensation, as a matter of national policy and as an instrument of national government, considerable mileage of marginal and non-paying lines"), the C.P.R. must have adequate revenues, if it is expected to provide efficient freight and passenger service. As the only large, privately owned system, the C.P.R. also must be used as the standard for rate-setting. It is, in theory at least, a strictly regulated public utility. In fact, a great deal of argument during the past six years has been developed by the seven provinces who have protested freight rate increases, in an effort to determine whether, in practice, the C.P.R. is the strictly regulated utility that it ought to be, if its requirements are to be the sole rate-making criteria.

It is not difficult, even for the layman, to see that the establishment of fair and equitable freight rates presents a most complicated problem. Aside from the very wide variety of commodities involved, both as to bulk and value, railways in practice must apply rates of various types, involving long and short hauls, competition from buses, airlines, trucks and water transport, as well as other factors. To the extent that the public interest is involved, it becomes the responsibility of the C.P.R. to provide all information necessary to establish the cost of transportation, and in so doing to make available much information which commercial corporations normally withhold.

The C.P.R., moreover, though its ratio of traffic when compared with the C.N.R. is about as four is to five, is very big business. Information given to the Royal Commission indicated that it owns, controls, or is financially interested in a total of 77 other railways. In addition, it owns or controls 23 non-operating companies, involving hotels, restaurants, steamships, ferries, buses, elevators, stockyards, abattoirs, truck lines, airlines, telegraph systems and manufacturing plants, and trust company, mining and real estate businesses. It also owns title to the petroleum rights on more than eleven million acres of prairie land, which it carries on its books at \$1, though in one recent year these rights brought in a revenue of nearly \$2 million. It is presently asking the Canadian public, through the Board of Transport Commissioners, to permit freight rates which would guarantee the company a 6.5 per cent return on its railway investment.

What should be the attitude of the public toward such a request from a strictly regulated public utility, with 100 subsidiary offspring, largely accumulated, no doubt, out of the freight earnings of earlier years? Is the company correct in its contention that the benefits it derives from these subsidiaries (reflected in company dividends, or in the value of its properties), should not be taken into account along with freight gains and passenger losses? Before reaching a decision on this important matter, the Transport Board will require a much more generous revelation of C.P.R. facts than it has apparently been in the habit of demanding in the past. Perhaps, in any case, Parliament will have the last word.

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THE operation of large railway systems involves the employment of many thousands of persons. Indeed, those union employees who have nothing directly to do with the operation of trains for either of the two great Canadian systems, number approximately 125,000. They are segregated into 19 different unions, which act jointly in wage negotiations with the companies. These unions brought about the strike of 1950, that was only ended by compulsory arbitration imposed by Parliament, from which they emerged with nearly everything they had originally demanded.

Wage increases are, in fact, held largely responsible by the railways for most if not all of the rate increases which have been applied for since World War II. As this is written, Mr. Justice R. L. Kellock of the Supreme Court of Canada, whose decision settled the 1950 strike, has been selected to head a conciliation board which will deal with the 1952 demands of the non-operating unions. These new demands are for a wage increase of 45 cents per hour, the pegging of wages to the cost of living,

the union ship, and the check-off system of paying union dues. Two other conciliation boards will deal with the demands of the 21,000-member Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, who want a 35 per cent wage increase plus a 40-hour week, and the demand of the 9,000-member Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, for an increase of 35 cents an hour. If met, these demands are said to involve an additional labor cost to the railways of \$150 million.

The strike is labor's weapon of last resort, and is part of the concept of collective bargaining, now generally accepted as a right and incorporated into our laws. Nevertheless, society expects organized labor to use the strike with moderation and reluctance. Labor is no longer subjected to the greed and occasional brutality evidenced by owners and management in earlier years. Labor is now quite as strong as capital, if not stronger. If organized railway labor can paralyze the transportation of a country, as happened in 1950, and secure its demands more or less in full, it has no occasion to complain of its strength or power. What it does have occasion to do is to remember that every reform carries within itself the seed of its own destruction.

In this connection, it is to be noted that the general cost of living index in July was 12.2 per cent higher than in July, 1950. Whatever may be the facts presented during the progress of negotiations, the Canadian consumer will not see justification for an increase of either 35 cents, 45 cents, or 35 per cent in hourly wages this year.

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RELATIVE to such threats to a stabilized economy, the farmer has traditionally occupied an unenviable position. In an uncontrolled economy, agriculture is the most competitive of all industries. When society is energized by some force such as war or an acceleration of trade and industry, prosperity follows, but the farmer is the last of the large segments of society to feel it. He must wait until other people become sufficiently prosperous to create additional demands for food. After the wave of prosperity has reached its zenith, his prices either begin to fall first, or, as now in prairie Canada, show a gradual decline while costs continue to mount.

Transportation costs bear heavily on the farmer and the western farmer in particular. His principal crops—wheat and other grains—involve long hauls to market, for which he must pay the cost to central storage points such as Fort William, Vancouver and Churchill. Livestock pricing is based directly on central markets, often hundreds of miles away. Under reasonably normal conditions, his market lies in substantial measure, outside of Canada, where he must compete with millions of other farmers throughout the world. In the nature of things, his scale of operations cannot be large; because his business, if it grows, must grow horizontally: he cannot farm in a ten-storey building. Since 1935-39, farm wage rates have increased by nearly 400 per cent; and, in an effort to escape their full impact, mechanization has proceeded to an extent that, in some respects, has become alarming. Farm indebtedness, reduced with satisfying rapidity at one point in the postwar period, is now increasing. Net income, more often than not, is at the mercy of the weather. Municipal services and education are becoming increasingly costly and taxes are rising to an alarming extent.

What the western farmer requires of railway management and labor, is that they effectively combat obsolescence and inefficiency. If railway capital and labor each has rights, the western farmer has rights also, both as a citizen, and as a very important customer. His right is to efficient service at a fair price. He is now neither in a situation, nor in the mood, to look with equanimity on further freight rate increases, or disproportionate and unrealistic demands by railway labor. Like millions of others in Canada who feel helpless and frustrated in the face of continued inflation, he wants to know where it is all going to end; and especially what our governments and other responsible bodies, including organized labor and the railways, propose to do about it.